

Dear Parent/Guardian,

September 2022

A Level Geography at Farmor's School

This letter is designed to inform you of the Geography A Level course your son/daughter has just embarked upon, of the fieldwork opportunities which are available this academic year and the textbooks available.

We chose the AQA A-Level Geography course as we believe this specification will excite our students' minds, challenge perceptions and stimulate their investigative and analytical skills. There are units in this course to reflect the world today with inspiring schemes of work which will help provide our students with the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm sought by higher education and employers. You can find out more about this Geography qualification at aqa.org.uk/geography.

The A Level Geography students will also be given a handbook which contains vital information which they will keep and refer to throughout the two year course. I urge you to take a look at this for further information and to get to know what your son/daughter is studying. It also has some top tips for success, contracts, specification details, marking information, assessment objectives, an assessment record, key vocabulary and key dates.

In order to give you a flavour of the forthcoming A Level Geography, below is the specification at a glance for the whole two years.

Component 1: Physical geography

What's assessed

- Section A: Water and carbon cycles
- Section B: Coastal systems and landscapes
- Section C: Hazards

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 96 marks
- 40% of A-level

Component 2: Human geography

What's assessed

- Section A: Global systems and global governance
- Section B: Changing places
- Section C: Population and environment

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 96 marks
- 40% of A-level

Component 3: Geographical investigation

What's assessed

- Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field.
- The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

How it's assessed

- 3,000 – 4,000 words
- 35 marks
- 20% of A-level
- Marked by teachers moderated by AQA

There will be opportunities to get out of the classroom and study some of these topics. Information will be communicated as the course progresses. **June 14th-16th 2023** are the dates for the residential fieldtrip to Pembrokeshire in Wales, preparing for their Physical Paper 1 on Coasts Systems and Landscapes and collecting data for their individual Geographical Investigation. We will also visit Cardiff Bay on our return journey to Fairford. We will have a guided walk around the main buildings and the visit will include a boat trip - seeing the urban developments in this area. We will also visit the Cardiff Bay Barrage. The full cost of the fieldtrip will be issued before Easter. It will include the transport, insurance, full-board accommodation at the Manorbier Youth Hostel near Tenby, plus the cost of a specialist Guides and the excursions.

There are new AQA specific Geography A Level textbooks which are at various stages of publication. Students have found them useful to purchase in the past and have been able to sell them on after they have completed the course! There is no need to purchase every publication. There is a choice – see below for details. These texts support learning and provide references. In addition, we do of course refer to certain website resources, along with news articles from a variety of media sources. The books are:

- A/AS – Level Geography for AQA Student Book. Published by Cambridge University Press (ISBN 9781316606322).
- AQA Geography A Level and AS **Physical** Geography Student Book. Oxford University Press ISBN 9780198366515
- AQA Geography A Level and AS **Human** Geography Student Book. Oxford University Press ISBN 9780198366546
- AQA A Level Geography Fourth Edition Hodder Education ISBN 9781471858697

There are numerous revision guides too which we recommend our students have. Your son/daughter will have the opportunity to see a copy of all of these books during lesson time. Just ask the Geography Teacher.

I would just like to take the opportunity to ask for your assistance in encouraging your son/daughter to work hard during this forthcoming course. We would expect all tasks set to be completed by the deadline and to as high a standard as possible.

Thank you in anticipation and we look forward to a successful academic year.

Yours sincerely,



Esme Batchelor
Head of Geography