



1536



1701

THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA (Hons), PGDip, NPQH, NPQEL

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: info@cooperscoborn.org.uk | Website: www.cooperscoborn.org.uk |

17th January 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Year 9 Residential Trip for GCSE Geographers – July 2024

I am writing to you today tentatively, about a trip which the Geography department intends on running at the end of the academic year. After many years of running successful A level and GCSE trips to Iceland, Suffolk and Walton-on-the-Naze, we are keen to extend our residential fieldwork opportunities to younger students.

We are planning a visit to the beautiful South Wales coast, where we will stay at Margam Park, a Field Studies Council Centre. The department has run several trips to FSC centres, both prior to and since the pandemic, with the aim to enable students to explore, understand and enjoy the natural environment and provide a great foundation for GCSE Geography.

Our visit will include trips to a variety of natural environments including dramatic coastlines and remote highlands. We will use the latest technology and methods to investigate the landscape and how people interact with it. We will be led by fieldwork experts throughout our stay. There will be opportunities to enjoy free time in the evening with friends, making it a memorable trip away for all.

The dates of this field trip are Monday 8th July – Wednesday 10th July 2024. The cost of the trip will be approximately £400 an exact amount will be given when we have final numbers (please see below). This will cover coach transport to, from and within South Wales, all meals supplied by the FSC, accommodation, and activities.

If you would like to find out more about Margam Park, the Field Studies Council and the area we will be visiting, please look at the photos on the web link below. The Centre is an impressive discovery centre set within its own national park and if the weather is anything like previous years, it will be a fantastic trip!

<https://www.field-studies-council.org/locations/margam/>

Due to the nature of the trip, and the fact it is intended to give a foundation and exposure to fieldwork before beginning their GCSE course, **the trip will only be open to students who have selected GCSE Geography as one of their option choices.** We are conscious that most Year 9's may not have decided about all of their option subjects yet and this letter intends to give you advance warning due to the quick turnaround required. I outline the process for this trip below:

Thursday 15th February 2024 - GCSE option selection deadline.

Friday 16th February 2024 – A further letter will be sent out to the parents of students who have opted to take Geography as a GCSE option choice.

Thursday 29th February 2024 (by 9am). - an initial deposit to register your child's interest and your consent. W/C 4th March 2024 – Confirmation of place sent via parentmail.



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I can confirm that the trip is limited in size to a maximum of 45 student places (one coach load), with a random selection undertaken following analysis of student's behaviour records. No consideration will be given towards students' academic performance.

31st March 2024 - second instalment due

30th April 2024 - final instalment due

Here is a link to a FAQ document that explains what is covered by the school's insurance.

<https://www.cooperscoborn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/School-Insurance-Cover-Summary-1.pdf>

All trips are subject to the required good behaviour of students in school and whilst representing Coopers Coborn in the local community. Any students that do not uphold the excellent standards of conduct expected may be removed from trips which could result in the loss of monies already paid to the school.

We are really looking forward to bringing the enjoyment and great learning experiences of a residential field trip to our new GCSE geographers. Investigating places first-hand and exploring how our natural and human worlds interact are key skills at GCSE and this trip offers a great opportunity for transition between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 learning.

Any questions surrounding the trip, please do not hesitate to contact me (rch@cooperscoborn.co.uk).

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Robert Chart Teacher of
Geography**
rch@cooperscoborn.co.uk