

March 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: A level Biology - Residential Field Course**

In A level Biology, students are taught much of the ecology topic through attendance at a three day residential field course at FSC Nettlecombe Court in Somerset. The course is run by the Field Studies Council and this year will take place between Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019. This course is extremely beneficial to both the students' intellectual and personal development and promotes independent learning.

During the course, students will study unfamiliar ecosystems and apply their knowledge to describe and explain patterns of distribution and abundance of different species that they encounter. They will also be exposed to scientific data collection methods that are integral to this part of their course and will learn how to statistically analyse the data to a high level of sophistication.

Several PAG activities, including sampling techniques and a data logging activity, will be completed during the 3 days. These are difficult to complete in school and the field course offers the optimum conditions for these procedures. The activities will form part of the practical accreditation for A-level Biology

The cost for this course is £288 (although subject to numbers, this may be slightly less and in which case we will reduce the final payment accordingly) and shown below are the instalment payment dates.

- Deposit of **£100** to be paid by Friday 30 April 2019
- The balance of **£188** to be paid by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July

Payment and consent for the trip needs to be made via WisePay; simply login to your WisePay account for details. If you need a reminder of your WisePay login please e-mail [n.hopkins@holt.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:n.hopkins@holt.wokingham.sch.uk). In the event of difficulties using this system, please telephone Mrs Simmons, the School Finance Manager.

In cases of severe financial hardship please contact Ms Royle, Assistant Head teacher, who may be able to put you in touch with agencies that could help or to discuss the situation.

*If for unforeseen circumstances your daughter/son does not continue with A level Biology in Year 13 these monies will be refundable **as long as** we have had written notice received by Monday 9th September.*

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely



Mrs G Whitehouse  
Head of Biology