

May 2024

Dear parent/carers

During the course of this year in Geography, our Year 8 students have been studying a range of Geographical topics, including ecosystems. In Geography, we like to incorporate fieldwork into our curriculum to allow students to understand key concepts in a practical setting.

This summer, we would like to bring this learning to life and take our students to the Forest of Marston Vale where they can explore many of these topics and others in an exciting and stimulating environment. Students will have the opportunity to explore the forest whilst participating in a number of ranger-led activities such as map-making and a leaf hunt, linking to a tree study for fieldwork fortnight later in the term.

We will be travelling to the Forest of Marston Vale by coach. The sessions will run over the course of 2 days: **Wednesday, 19 June and Thursday, 20 June**, during which groups of 66 students will visit the forest according to the schedule below:

**Wednesday, 19 June: Group A - students will depart school at 1.00 pm and return by 4.00 pm.**

**Thursday, 20 June: Group B - students will depart school at 10 am and return by 1.00 pm.**

**Thursday, 20 June: Group C - students will depart school at 1.10 pm and return by 4.00 pm.**

We will inform you which group your child will be placed in closer to the date of the trip. Additionally, we will keep you updated via our social media sites (@GoldingtonAcad for Twitter and our 'Goldington Academy' Facebook page) throughout the afternoon to ensure that you are aware of the actual return times.

Students will be allowed to dress in non-uniform for the day, but this must be appropriate for the outdoor sessions, i.e. no short skirts, excessive jewellery or make-up. Students may also want to consider bringing wellington boots and appropriate outer wear depending on the weather conditions as the site could become fairly muddy.

In order for the trip to take place, we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £5.30 per pupil. This covers the cost of transport. When making your payment via Parent Mail, please tick to give consent. It is not compulsory for you to pay for this event; however, we are only able to provide such opportunities for learning by obtaining contributions from parents/carers. Although regrettable, the decision to cancel this event may be necessary if we do not receive sufficient donations to cover the expenditure of the trip.

This decision will be taken on Monday, 3 June, so please ensure that contributions are made by **2 June**. If you are experiencing financial difficulty and are unable to contribute this amount, please write to, or email Kelly Marshall ([marshallk@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:marshallk@goldington.beds.sch.uk)), with details of how much you can contribute.

Please remember to keep your emergency contact numbers updated, along with details of any medical conditions your child has, by contacting the school office.

During the trip, I can be contacted on the following number: 07711 349616.

Yours sincerely

Ms K Parmar  
Geography Department