



From: Head of Geography, Amy Donnelly

Thursday 22 September 2022

Geography A-level - independent investigation timeline

Dear Parents

As students enter the Upper Sixth programme of study for Geography, they will undertake an independent investigation (often referred to as the NEA / non-examined assessment). This comprises an independent piece of research to be conducted during the Michaelmas 2022 and start of Lent 2023 terms.

As you know, students have been on a residential fieldtrip, to introduce them to some of the field skills and techniques they might consider employing in their own projects. The Geography Department put these to ensure that we meet the OCR requirements to conduct four days of fieldwork skills for all pupils.

The department has also developed a website to guide students through the process of formulating an idea to finalising a project, in the hope that it collates the wealth of information available from multiple sources into a navigable format. Students will continue to receive dedicated lesson time every week from one of their classroom teachers, prep time throughout the term for half of their geography allocation to use for NEA work, and the option to attend drop-in clinics each week for additional support. Students have access to this website: <https://sites.google.com/abingdon.org.uk/geog-nea-2021-22/home>

As you can see, the department is offering a range of support to students to assist them in their independent investigation. A full timeline has been shared with students (selected highlights below) and we would ask that you lend your support in this process also by helping students to remain on track. The key first stage is that in October half term there will be an element of individual fieldwork required, to allow sufficient time to collect data to analyse.

- Friday 30 September – Completion of section 1: Plan and theory
- Friday 14 October – Completion of section 2: Methodology
- Sunday 30 October – All data collected (this should happen over half term)
- Tuesday 10 January 2023 - First full draft submitted
- Friday 3 February 2023 - Final project submitted

I hope that this information is clear and should you have any further questions, please do discuss this with your child's Geography teacher at parents evening, or contact Amy Donnelly, Head of Geography.

Yours sincerely

Amy Donnelly, Head of Geography

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: 01235 521563 Fax: 01235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk