

Urmston Grammar School

Newton Road, Urmston
Manchester , M41 5UG
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Tel: 0161 748 2875
VAT Registration Number: 120 1656 61



Dear Parents and Year 10 Geographers

We are fast approaching our residential. There is some information I need to share and I've had a few common questions via email that I'll also answer here.

We are staying at The Drapers Field Centre, Betws-y-coed, LL24 0HB.

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

Wednesday 22nd May – Students should come to school as normal, they will be able to attend all of period 1 and most of period 2 before we meet in the canteen (around 10.10am, I'll confirm via form tutors on the day). On arrival at school they can leave their bags, in a neat and organised way, in the large conference room until they are needed.

They will need to be in their fieldwork clothes (not school uniform) which should not be jeans, and they will need a packed lunch. This year we will head straight to Llandudno, eat lunch, and then conduct human fieldwork, until around 5pm when we will make our way to our accommodation. Dinner is usually around 6.45pm after an evening lesson that follows up on the days activities, before students are given a bit of free time.

Thursday 23rd May – Breakfast will be around 8am, but this varies based on occupancy. Students will also make a packed lunch at the point. Then we are busy until the evening, gathering equipment, briefing in classrooms and then collecting data (a full day at Criccieth) and applying classroom learning. Similar to Wednesday night there will be a lesson, an evening meal and a bit of free time.

Friday 24th May – Breakfast starts our day, along with making packed lunches and packing ready for a departure following a full morning of lessons (or a return to Llandudno to complete more human fieldwork). We usually leave the centre around 12.30pm / 1pm and (traffic permitting) arrive back at school just before the end of the school day. Your son / daughter can keep you informed on our progress as we approach Manchester (if you are allowing them to bring a mobile device).

Students will carry out learning activities mostly in their class groups, but in the dining room and their free time they can socialise with their friends from other classes.

The centre advises against mobile devices being brought, but if your son / daughter brings them along they will be expected to follow the usual school guidelines regarding technology and it will be their responsibility to look after their devices. They must NOT leave plugs in / on for long periods of time, such as overnight or during the day. In previous years the centre has had good wifi accessibility.

Information the centre normally shares with us follows (in italics), along with responses to queries I've already received.

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Your day will be long, with activities after breakfast from 9.15am until 8.00pm, requiring lots of energy, but it will also be good fun and rewarding. Your stay will give you the opportunity to meet new and interesting people as well as to learn about some of the stunning environments Snowdonia has to offer.

You will have some free time each day, usually between 8.00pm and 10.30pm. We have a games room, common room, and football pitch, as well as an area to make drinks.

I would like to request that students are respectful of the lights out time, this is a very tiring few days for staff (and students) so being in their own beds and ready for sleep on time is very important. Mr Neale will be speaking to students and organising the bedroom allocations within the next week. I'd be grateful if at home you could discuss that this is only 2 nights and they are in the rooms to sleep so it really shouldn't matter who they share with ! By lights out they MUST be in the room allocated for (fire) safety reasons.

*The centre caters for special **dietary requirements** (our school system doesn't tell me who this is, **students need to let class teachers know dietary needs ASAP**). Vegetarian options are available for those who eat Halal or Kosher meat. Students will be asked to help clear their table after meal times and prepare their own pack lunch each morning. We would advise against you bringing your own food, as there is no space to safely refrigerate it or facilities to heat it. Our chefs work hard to create a choice of delicious dishes for you from local produce. This is a great time to try something new if you spot it on the menu.*

Students can bring snacks, but must dispose of the rubbish sensibly. The Geography staff & I cannot fault the food offered, it has always been tasty and filling and I'm sure we return a stone heavier because it's so yummy, with generous portions ! **I have yet to send our list of dietary needs, but want to do this before Thursday April 18th, if there is anything not already recorded on school systems regarding diet please update us before then.** Previously the centre has run a small tuck shop in the evening too, so they might want to bring a small amount of money (occasionally on our coasts day there is time for an ice cream also).

The Centre : *We have accommodation for over 90 people in a mix of rooms for between two and ten people. All have bunk beds, wash basins, central heating and plug sockets. Every bedroom can be locked. The FSC does not insure visitors' property and **cannot accept responsibility for its loss or damage**. Please also note lost property is kept for only four weeks after your visit.*

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Safety : *Activities on field studies courses are not particularly strenuous - the most that will be asked will be for you to walk several miles, over rough and undulating paths. We will be outside irrespective of the weather so please be prepared. **It is important that you let us know if you are in poor health, or unfit for any reason.** You must mention this on the form sent to us by your teacher. **Please make sure you bring any medication you require.***

If your son / daughter has medical needs registered with school then I have already made the centre aware of this. On our departure day it would be useful if students let their class teacher know regarding any medication they have with them (such as inhalers etc).

Please also refer to the kit list, previously sent out and posted on SMHW more recently, re sensible clothes and essentials such as a day rucksack and water bottle.

Myself and the other Geography teachers are very much looking forward to the residential, and I hope the students are too. It has always been thoroughly enjoyable (and exhausting).

If you have any questions that I haven't addressed here please contact us via an email to your son / daughters class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Ms C Bramwell

Head of Geography

(& Mr Neale, Miss Lingwood & Mr Weems)