

JPS/vb

5th September 2022

Ransom Road
Woodbridge
Suffolk
IP12 4JX

Telephone: 01394 385720
mail@farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk
www.farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that your son/daughter has had a restful summer and are looking forward to the continuation of their A level Biology course this year.

As part of the A Level Biology course, students must complete a number of required practicals as set out by the exam boards. One of these practicals is ecological fieldwork which we plan to carry out this term.

The fieldwork will be carried out at RSPB Minsmere, a nature reserve on the Suffolk coast and requires transport by coach from the school. This is an excellent opportunity to see an area of outstanding natural beauty with rare animals, plants and ecosystems. The area has been used recently for the BBC show Springwatch. While there, students will complete a number of field studies looking at the distribution of species and the environmental factors which affect their populations. They will also be able to learn first-hand about the work that goes on at the reserve to conserve and protect a number of rare and endangered species of plants and animals. The data the students collect will actually be helping the volunteers and staff at Minsmere to monitor the health of these important ecosystems.

The date of the trip will be Wednesday 28th September. The fieldwork will be a great opportunity for students to learn skills and acquire knowledge directly linked to the specification they are studying. It is highly recommended that they attend, however it is not a requirement. If they cannot attend for whatever reason these skills and content will be taught at school in a classroom environment.

As with all school trips there is a certain amount of risk. In this instance students will be travelling a short distance by coach and conducting fieldwork near the coast. At the site students will be told not to attempt to enter the sea as the currents are always particularly strong. We will also advise students about the risks of handling living organisms and ensure this is done safely and hygienically. We expect full cooperation from the students regarding this, to ensure everybody's safety when on site.

The coach will be leaving the school at approximately 9.00am and returning at 5.15pm. The students will need to bring lunch and drink. In case of changeable weather we also recommend students bring sun cream, hats and waterproof jackets as appropriate. There is a small café and a shop that we may be able to visit at the end.

The cost of the trip is £30, to cover entry to the reserve, transport, staffing and insurance costs. If there are any issues regarding this please contact Mrs Stuart, Director of Sixth Form, at the school who can look at whether your son/daughter can claim this cost back.

Cont'd

Please make payment via Parent Pay by Wednesday 21st September, you do not need to return a consent form. As payment is made you will be asked to consent to the following:

I consent to my child taking part in this activity. I acknowledge that the staff will be liable in the event of any accident only if they have failed to take reasonable care of my child during the visit.

I consent to my child receiving medical treatment which, in the opinion of a qualified medical practitioner, may be necessary.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Parks', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Parks

Head of Biology