

Whitehorse Drive  
Epsom, Surrey KT18 7NQ  
Tel: 01372 720439

Email: [info@rosebery.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@rosebery.surrey.sch.uk)  
[www.roseberyschool.co.uk](http://www.roseberyschool.co.uk)



8 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

We are so pleased to be welcoming our Year 13 Geography A Level students back to school this week. Thanks to technology we were able to keep teaching new material from the AQA A Level course remotely throughout the COVID lockdown period, and even teach 'live' to most students during the summer term. This means that our Year 13 A Level cohort completed the first year of the course having covered the same subject content as they would in a 'normal' year; an amazing achievement.

Sadly, our planned trip to Iceland in July was unable to run, and our residential fieldtrip to Dorset had to be postponed. We were initially able to secure a rescheduled visit to Swanage in late October, but unfortunately have recently been informed that no residential trips are now possible for the foreseeable future. So, the A Level residential fieldtrip for this cohort is now cancelled. We will therefore be refunding payments in full over the next few days through ParentPay.

In previous years we have used the Dorset fieldtrip as a starting point for the Non-Examined Assessment (NEA - 'coursework' unit), and students have been able to collect primary data from investigations 'in the field' whilst in the Swanage area. You may be aware that Ofqual (public exams) have now announced that the NEA element of the Geography A Level is to remain this year despite field trips being put on hold nationally. This means that we must now approach the NEA unit in a different way this year.

Personally, I see this as an exciting opportunity for our students rather than a problem. Over the next few weeks, I will be spending significant time preparing all Year 13 geographers on how to produce an outstanding NEA coursework investigation (the NEA is worth 20% of the Geography A Level). We will also work with each student to help them devise a local investigation question (or hypothesis) to test before then carrying out their field investigation individually. I will be discussing the potential titles that they can choose (both physical and human geography). In previous years most students have tended to produce NEA investigations based solely on our very short trip to Dorset - which is rather limiting. This year students can choose a topic of interest and pursue it (locally) over a much longer period of time. To assist students, we are timing the NEA process this year to allow the Autumn half term holiday as a potential opportunity to collect their primary data. Depending on the topic that each student chooses, they may need some assistance from you (the parents) to get them to and from their chosen location(s) to collect their data, as

**Head of School: Mr D Lach BA (Hons) NPQH    Executive Headteacher: Ms R Allen MA NPQH**

 GLF Schools trading as Rosebery School is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Registered number: 07551959



we are currently not allowed to do so. I trust you will be able to assist with that transportation if required later this term.

I believe that our students at Rosebery are in a particularly strong position with their NEAs, as they carried out a 'pilot investigation' last year on our field trip day to central London. We called this their 'mini-NEA' project. This means that they are already familiar with the NEA 'sequence of enquiry', and some students may also wish to develop their mini-NEA from last year further to produce a full project for their A Level submission.

Please discuss the choice of NEA with your child, and the accessibility of their chosen study location, over the next few weeks. I am excited to see a far more diverse range of interesting A Level Geography investigation this year. Please note that the emphasis from the exam board (AQA) regarding NEA projects, is that the work must be completed independently by the students, without the direct assistance of their teachers. We will prepare the students for their NEA, show them previous finished projects, 'dissect' the mark scheme in detail etc. However, once they have chosen an appropriate title, they must work independently of the school, before submitting their final project in the Spring Term.

Yours sincerely

**Guy Carter (AST)**  
MAT Geography Lead (GLF)  
Head of Geography (Rosebery)

**Head of School: Mr D Lach BA (Hons) NPQH    Executive Headteacher: Ms R Allen MA NPQH**

 GLF Schools trading as Rosebery School is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Registered number: 07551959

