

June 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian

Geography Field Trip - Visit to Eagles Nest – Cevennes - France

We are intending to take our year 12 students on a residential field visit to the Eagles Nest Field Study Centre in France, from Saturday 9th October to Saturday 16th October 2010.

Students will use the visit to construct case studies for use in their year 12 examinations, and to prepare for the Geographical skills and fieldwork examination in year 12. The fieldwork carried out is an integral part of the AS Geography course and it is a requirement that all students undertake this activity if they study this subject at Westcliff High School for Girls

The cost of the field visit is **£430.00**. The price includes full board and lodging, transport and insurance. The additional cost of expert tuition provided by the experienced centre staff is being paid for in full by the school. **A non-refundable deposit of £100 is payable no later than 5th September 2010**, further payments totalling £330.00 can be paid on **ParentPay** as long as we receive the total amount by 4th October 2010 at the latest.

We have investigated a number of field study sites in the UK and found the Eagles Nest Field Centre to offer the best value for money. The location of the centre is ideal for the study of both physical and human Geography offering classic upland river landforms, an extensive coastal sand dune system, granite and limestone scenery plus a range of settlements ideal for the study of Human Geography within close proximity to the centre. We believe that this variety of fieldwork settings will give our students the best possible grounding in fieldwork techniques ready for their AS examination.

As with most school trips we are only allowed to ask parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost. **This payment is not compulsory, but if insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund the visit, then it will be cancelled.**

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of the trip:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is **not** also received and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs) does not exceed £16,040 (Financial Year 2009/10);
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit; and
- An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008.
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As your son/daughter is aware, **this is a compulsory trip for all geography students in Year 12** and as such if you have any problems with regard to paying for this trip please apply in writing to Dr Hayman (Headteacher).

Please pay for this trip using ParentPay. If you have any problems making payment on ParentPay please telephone Mrs Martin or Mrs Emery on 01702 476026 to make payment over the telephone.

Further information about the field course and field studies centre will be distributed in September.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Feeley
Head of Geography.

Please return to the box outside the school office

WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

I hereby give permission for my daughter/son _____ of Form _____ to participate in the Lower Sixth Geography Field Trip to Eagle's Nest, Cevennes, France. (9th to 16th October 2010)

I have paid the non-refundable deposit of £100.00 on ParentPay and agree to pay the balance of £330.00 by Sunday 4th October 2010.

I am exempt from paying for this trip because

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*My daughter/son does not/does have a special dietary requirement.

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Signed _____ Date _____
(Parent/Guardian)

(*Please delete as necessary)