



# South Dartmoor Community College

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*Empowering everyone to be the best they can be.*

7 November 2025

Dear Parent / Carer

## **A level Geography Compulsory Fieldwork Studies**

As you may be aware, there is a compulsory fieldwork requirement to the A level Geography exam. This is to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of the enquiry process and field research methodology. This is essential to enable students to carry out their own Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) coursework worth 20% of the final exam. To formalise the conversations and discussions held in class with students to date, I would like to outline the programme for the Field trip to Leeson House Field Studies Centre, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 3EU, from Friday 20 – Monday 23 March 2026.

### **Friday 20 March:**

Leaving from South Dartmoor Community College at 9am

Arrive Leeson House for lunchtime (students will need to bring their own packed lunch)

Studies in the field and classroom will take place on Friday afternoon, Saturday, Sunday and Monday morning.

### **Monday 23 March:**

Leaving Swanage at 9am to complete final fieldwork studies, returning to South Dartmoor for 3pm.

Students can use college buses on both the Friday morning and Monday afternoon.

Each of the working days will be structured around class/laboratory and field research. Data will be collected and processed on each day to illustrate the range of techniques required by the exam. The day will end after evening sessions in the classrooms around 8pm. The entire study course will be led by tutors from the Field Centre and SDCC staff, who will deliver the specific courses each day and who will be the mountain leader and first aider in the field.

All food is provided and tailored, where necessary, to the students' dietary needs. Breakfast will be hot and/or cold. Lunches will be packed lunches and drinks (taking a flask enables tea/coffee or hot squash when in the cold outdoors) and evening meals are seated in the dining room and served to the tables. Sleeping will be in dormitory style rooms with communal shower and toilets. Naturally these will be single gender. No room sharing with other schools will be required, although they might share a corridor. Health and Safety for all activities are risk assessed and planned to mitigate the chances of accident. This does rely entirely on students acting responsibly and upon instruction at all times.

Equipment listed on the attached "Secondary School Kit List" is essential (please note: bedding **IS** provided by Leeson House). Only walking boots are accepted and walking trousers should be worn (jeans are not allowed to be worn in the field). Students may also bring wellington boots although leaders will require walking boots to be worn for some activities. Waterproofs and backpacks must be to a standard the field centre staff accept or renting (cheaply) from them will be insisted upon.

Evenings will be free to students after the end of the class sessions and there is a common room with table games and TV and stationary essentials (including waterproof notepads). Leaving site is not permitted during evening times. There is a safe on site to protect valuables. No unnecessary electrical and electronic products such as Bluetooth speakers, for example, or hair straighteners, are permitted.

**Consent** from parents **needs to be given for students to attend the trip** and this is completed online through the **ParentPay** process. The cost of this trip will be £423.30. This includes:

- Leeson House residential fee (including all meals)
- Tuition sessions for each day
- Transport throughout the trip

To ensure this is manageable for all parents and carers, I have arranged for a Parent Pay account to be set up whereby you can pay (if you choose to) in instalments up until the 1 March 2026.

### **16-19 Bursary Funding**

All students can apply for financial support through the 16-19 bursary funding. Bursary funds are for essential education related costs based on your actual financial need. For more information about this funding and to understand how this may support you to fund this trip if cost is a barrier, you will find the bursary guidance and application form here

- [South Dartmoor Community College - Policies and Procedures](#). Alternatively, please email [sixthform@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk) for more information.

It is intended that this trip will provide students with a structured yet supportive environment. The high-quality teaching and learning resources should ensure they can focus fully on their academic development while enjoying a memorable and collaborative experience.

Yours sincerely

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