



South Dartmoor Community College

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Empowering everyone to be the best they can be.



2 May 2025

Dear Parent / Carer

WeST Sixth Form Geography Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) Launch Day, Plymouth University - Monday 19 May 2025

This year, the entire cohort of WeST A level geographers from our 8 secondary schools will be visiting the University of Plymouth Geography Department to spend a day considering the Non-Examined Assessment section of their A level. This enquiry structured investigation is worth 20% of the final exam mark allocation. If completed thoroughly and insightfully, it has the real potential to achieve all of those percentage points, as full marks are not infrequently awarded to high quality investigations. There are, however, essential considerations and processes that need to be understood before the students set off on their own to complete their NEAs.

A whole day of expert instruction and advice has been planned for the students. The beginning of the day will be delivered by our own WeST NEA national moderator Nicola Dowling and local topic examples will be introduced by Ivybridge based Dr James White. The afternoon sessions include workshops run by the University of Plymouth Geography staff.

The timings are as follows:

8:15 Depart SDCC

9:00-9:15 Arrival

9:20-9:30 Welcome – University staff and Nicola Dowling

9:30-10:15 Introduction to the NEA Nicola Dowling

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:15 Human Geography Investigations Dr James White

11:15-12:00 Physical Geography Investigations (Coasts) Dr James White

12:00-12:30 Lunch Break

12:30-14:30 Breakout sessions in school groups Nicola Dowling/Dr James White/University staff

14:30 Return to main room to close Nicola Dowling

15:15 Return to SDCC

Students will be travelling to and from school by minibus, accompanied by myself, and will need to take regular class materials with them, especially lined paper and pencils/pens. A packed lunch will be necessary as there is only a 30-minute break for lunch.

Parking for the minibus will be a short walk away from the Rolle Building where the lecture theatre is located. Therefore, weather appropriate clothing is recommended. Drop off at school needs to be by 8:15am and return to school will be somewhat dependent on traffic out of Plymouth, although we plan to be back in time for the school buses. As the A38 can throw occasional delays, students will need to think of a contingency plan to get home, as there is a chance of them not reaching the school bus departure time.

Consent will be required via ParentPay and we would ask for a voluntary contribution of £7 please to cover the cost of the transport.

Yours sincerely

Stephanie Russell
Geography Lead

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