

A-LEVEL BIOLOGY

Y13 NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022
 BLENCATHRA EDITION



DEAR PARENTS/GUARDIANS,

I hope this finds you well. I wanted to write prior to our residential to Blencathra FSC on Weds 12th October with further details.

The aim of the trip is for students to complete Core Practicals 15 and 16 with specialist tuition, in the field. Alongside this, students will be taught key content from Topic 10. We are really excited about the trip, if you have any queries please get in touch via Parentline.

MRS K PINDER

SUBJECT LEADER, BIOLOGY



BEHAVIOUR/CONDUCT:

Our students are usually impeccable, and we're really proud in particular of this Year 13 cohort. So we do not expect behaviour and conduct while on this trip to be an issue. But just a reminder that we are representing Ripley, and all expectations we have within school will be the same whilst at Blencathra. Any serious incident may result in us asking you to collect your child.



WORK ETHIC:

The basis of this trip is to study ecology in action, and complete two core practicals. However, there is so much more to gain, many skills are learnt: statistical analysis, teamwork, communication, resilience and confidence. Whilst being away from home can be a challenge, we expect our students to work as hard as they do in the classroom while we are at Blencathra.



MONEY/VALUABLES:

Students will not be allowed off-site at any point, so there is no need to bring money, all meals are provided. However there is usually a tuck shop in the evenings so some spending money can be used there if they wish to. Students will need to be responsible for their own belongings/any valuables they may bring.



ITINERARY:

Weds 12th October

8.45am Normal registration/assembly & p1
 10.30am: Depart Ripley
 12.30pm: Lunch
 1pm: Arrive at Blencathra & Core Prac 15
 6pm: Tea
 7-8pm: Succession Session

Thurs 13th October

8am: Breakfast
 9-12.30pm: Lithosere Succession & CP16a
 Lunch
 1.30pm-5pm: Freshwater Ecology
 6pm: Tea
 7-9pm: Data Analysis & Statistics

Fri 14th October

8am: Breakfast
 9-12.30pm: Woodland Ecology Core Prac 16
 1pm: Travel back to Ripley for a 3pm ETA.



FOOD:

- Students will need to bring a packed lunch for Wednesday, but all other meals are provided.
- Lunch for Thursday & Friday is typically a sandwich, fruit & cake - a lunchbox would be useful! A flask may also be.
- Students are welcome to bring snacks if they wish.
- Students will have access to tea/coffee making facilities.

KIT LIST:

I have included a kit list from Blencathra FSC, please note that a towel is essential. Please also remind your child to pack sensibly for cold & rainy weather! Wellies/waterproofs can be hired, so please do not buy if you don't already have them. A good pair of walking boots is essential. If your child takes any medication please ensure they have this and make me aware.

USEFUL CONTACTS:

BLENCATHRA FSC: 017687 79601
 MR WALTON (@ SCHOOL): 01524 64496
 MRS PINDER (@ BLENCATHRA): 07999309248



What to bring with you

What to wear

It can be very wet and cold (at any time of year!) Bring suitable clothes for being outside most of the day – this means lots of layers! Our recommendations:

- Waterproof coat and trousers
- Wellies and/or walking boots
- Warm jumpers
- Hat, scarf, gloves
- Sun hat
- Pair of clean, dry shoes for indoors
- Lots of socks

Essential items

- Towel
- Toiletries – shampoo, shower gel, toothbrush, etc.
- Torch (it is very dark here at night!)
- Pencil case
- Rucksack (with enough room for spare clothes and your lunch)
- Water bottle and/or flask

Anything else?

- A lunch box can be handy – stops your sandwiches getting squashed!
- Any medication you require
- Insect repellent (especially May – September)
- Sun cream

We have a kit hire where waterproof trousers, jackets, walking boots and wellies can be borrowed for no extra charge