

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

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20 September 2011

Dear Parent

Lower Sixth Biology Fieldtrek – The Sierra Nevada Ecosystem 20-26 August 2012

I am writing to you with details of a Biology trip to the Sierra Nevada that we will be organising for Lower Sixth Higher and Standard level Biology Students. The trip is entirely optional and is designed to complement the ecology section of the IB syllabus.

The stunning Sierra Nevada mountain range in Andalucía is a National Park and is also classified by UNESCO as a Biosphere reserve. The park contains an exceptional level of Biodiversity which makes it an excellent location to study ecology. The trip will include: biological field study techniques; river ecology; the study of birdlife and the use of wild plants. Although the trip is being organised by the Biology department, the education on offer will be very cross curricular; incorporating aspects of Geography, Geology, Chemistry, and Astronomy. Some of the work will be classroom based (during the hottest part of the day) but the majority will take place outside in the National Park. We are also intending to visit Granada for one afternoon.

We will be flying from Gatwick to Malaga on Monday 20 August and returning to Gatwick on Sunday 26 August. We will confirm the flight schedule nearer the time but we will expect students to make their own way to and from the Airport. Our accommodation, meals and some of the teaching will be at the 'Aula de Naturaleza' centre in the National Park. We are hoping to take between 25 and 30 students and if the trip is oversubscribed, we will put the names of all the students who return their forms and deposits before the deadline (14 October 2011) into a hat and allocate places in that way.

Costs: We are aiming to keep the cost of the trip to £1000 but it has not been finalised. This all inclusive price (flights, transfers in Spain, accommodation, food and tuition) is based on the current exchange rate and flight prices. To secure a place on the trip, a deposit of £500 will be required and can be paid by cheque or bank transfer. **The attached consent slip and the deposit will need to be returned by 14 October 2011.** The rest of the cost will be due later. Exact dates and payment schedules will be confirmed after places have been allocated.

Parents wishing to pay by bank transfer should remit the funds to Sevenoaks School, National Westminster Bank, Sevenoaks Branch. Account number 25848070, sort code 60-19-02. IBAN GB30 NWBK 6019 0225 8480 70, SWIFT/BIC code NWBK GB 2L XXX. Please ensure you quote your child's pupil code and the name of the trip.

Visa Requirements for non EU students: The responsibility lies with parents to ensure the pupils have valid visas where appropriate and passports have six months remaining from the return date of the trip.

Medical and Contact Details: It is parents' responsibility to update the school with any new information regarding medical conditions or contact details.

There will be more information in due course, but should you have any further queries at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact me. (kam@sevenoaksschool.org)

Kind regards

Karen Mylod



Biology Fieldtrek to the Sierra Nevada
20-26 August 2012

Name of pupil _____ Tutor Group/House _____

I/we would like my/our son/daughter to take part in the Biology Fieldtrek to the Sierra Nevada

- I enclose a cheque payable to Sevenoaks School for the deposit of £500
- Or
- I have arranged an electronic transfer to Sevenoaks School for the deposit of £500
 - **Please also include a copy of the photo page of your son/daughter's passport**

Signed _____
Parent/Guardian/Houseparent(with parental permission attached)

Date _____

Please return by 14 October 2011 to Karen Mylod, Biology department