



NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL

"creating opportunities for success"

16 April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 13 A Level Biology Field Course at Flatford Mill, Suffolk

I am pleased to let you know that I have made a provisional booking for a residential field trip for next year's Year 13 Biology students. The trip is to the Field Studies Council Centre, Flatford Mill, Suffolk from **Wednesday 2 December to Friday 4 December 2026**. This will further extend and support the A Level curriculum and allow students to develop their biology skills in new settings. Whilst attendance is not compulsory, it is strongly encouraged and it is expected most students will attend unless there is a very particular reason they cannot.

During this field course, students will have the extremely important opportunity to plan and carry out a variety of ecological sampling techniques such as transects and random sampling, and to study biodiversity in contrasting unfamiliar habitats including salt marshes. Students will be able to develop their skills and confidence with sampling techniques, data collection and statistical analysis; all of which will support the knowledge and application skills required in Papers 2 and Paper 3 of the final A level examinations. Additionally, there will be opportunities for students to apply theory in context through group work and discussion.

My experience of previous visits to Flatford Mill is that students have found it a very valuable learning opportunity, improved their confidence with the ecology and related topics in the exams, and they also enjoyed the learning outside of the classroom. Students have often found that they have deepened their appreciation for nature and gained a greater interest in the ecology topic.

Flatford Mill is set in beautiful Suffolk countryside, and the centre is famous for its association with the artist, John Constable. The Centre occupies very old buildings (up to 600 years old), which have been converted to meet the needs of a modern-day Field Centre. Details about the centre can be found here: <https://www.field-studies-council.org/centres/flatfordmill.aspx>.

The cost for this trip (based on 90 students attending) will be **£310** per student. This includes return transport by coach from school to Flatford Mill, on site transport, accommodation, full board, a specialist local tutor and the use of the educational facilities and equipment at the centre.

We need to pay a deposit for those participating in the trip to confirm our group number. If you agree to the details of this trip outlined in this letter, please make the **initial deposit payment of £160 by Friday 15 May 2026** via WisePay under the *Trips and Visits* section. Please be aware that payment constitutes permission

Headteacher: Mr Paul Norman MA, MSc, BSc (Hons), PGCE

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for this trip. Should you have any financial concerns with regards to payment for this trip, please contact finance@newsteadwood.co.uk in confidence.

It is a condition of Flatford Mill Field Studies Council Centre, that once initial deposits have been accepted, the balance for each student must be payable in full. **The remaining balance of £150 will be requested at the beginning of September 2026.** I would therefore suggest that you take out your own Cancellation Insurance or check your annual policy, as the school will be unable to refund in such an event.

Further details of the transport arrangements, accommodation facilities, itinerary and kit list will be sent to you at the beginning of the autumn term. I will also be requesting that you complete a behaviour contract, and dietary requirements form in the early autumn.

Emergency contact and medical information for students on this trip will be taken from the school database. Medical and dietary requirements will also be shared with the staff at Flatford Mill Field Studies Council Centre, for the purpose of trip safety. Please check and update school with any changes via the Arbor app.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at jlebreuilly@newsteadwood.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

J Lebreuilly

Mrs J Lebreuilly
Head of Science