

Welcome Week Tuesday 19th September

Dear Students,

Welcome to Year 1 of your studies. We are a small and friendly School where everybody experiences a sense of belonging from the start because we spend much time together, in lecture theatres, labs, the field and around the building between teaching sessions. We are starting this year for you with a great day out, experiencing the 4th dimension to your studies, time. We will be doing this with a 4.6 km walk taking us from the birth of the planet billions of years ago to the present day, with each meter representing a million years. We will then gather and talk about the present and future of our planet. In the process, you will make friends with your peers so that you recognise people later in the week and when you go to your first lectures and practical classes, meet the staff who will be teaching you, get a feel for the layout of the city, test out your field boots and rucksack and get lungsful of fresher air than in the city centre. Attendance is compulsory and we will be taking a register. If for any reason you are not able to walk 4.6 km, let us know and we will adjust the activity for you.

The schedule for the day will be:

- 09:00 Register with the School of Earth Sciences in the Wills Memorial Building
- 10:00 coaches leave for Bedminster Cricket Club near Ashton Court Country Park (journey time c. 20 minutes)
- 10:30 – 12:00 Group activities, introductions to each other and the rest of the day, begin Deep Time Walk
- 12:00 lunch (provided – let us know your dietary requirements on your Student Declaration Form)
- 12:30 Continue on the Deep Time Walk
- 15:30 start to arrive back at base, drinks and snacks available.
- 16:00 Group discussion
- 17:00 Walk back over Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge with parties heading for Wills Memorial Building

We will have a base at the Bedminster Cricket Club and will retreat to it for lunch, the discussion at the end of the day and even for the whole day if the weather is especially awful. You are now earth scientists and will be learning to operate in all kinds of weather conditions.

Come wearing walking boots* and have a full set of waterproofs* (jacket and trousers), water bottle, sunhat, sunscreen (you never know), any medication and sanitary supplies you may need for the day, notebook and pencils in a small rucksack*. We also recommend bring a water bottle if you have one.

There are toilets in two locations in the park. The terrain includes flat meadows, steep grassy slopes, woods with rocky areas, metalled and gravel paths. It may be muddy so don't wear clothes that you will regret getting mucky.

*if you are a bursary student and will be buying these things, get a receipt for your purchases and we will refund you. Sources such as Mountain Warehouse and Milletts sell waterproof hiking boots and outer layers at reasonable prices. Go for boots rather than hiking shoes to protect your ankles and to keep more water out.