

Welcome Week Field Day Tuesday 10th 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 an earth walk taking us from the birth of the planet to the present day. 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 lungfuls of fresher air than in the city centre.

Attendance is compulsory and we will be taking a register.

The schedule for the day will be:

- 9:30 Register with the School of Earth Sciences in the Wills Memorial Building
- 10:00 Welcome to Earth Sciences and introduction to what will happen today
- 10:30 Organise food and groups for the day out
- 11:00 Coaches leave for Bedminster Cricket Ground near Ashton Court Country Park (journey time c. 20 minutes)
- 11:30 – 12:00 Group activities
- 12:00 lunch (provided – let us know your dietary requirements on your Student Declaration Form)
- 12:30 First groups head out on the Deep Time Walk (last group leaves by 13:10)
- 15:30 Start to arrive back at Bedminster Cricket Ground, drinks and snacks available.
- 16:10 Group discussion
- 16:30 Free to leave – See options below:
 - Option 1: **Walk** back over Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge to Wills Memorial Building, guided by staff.
 - Option 2: Take **public transport** home (we can provide some guidance).
 - Option 3: Stay until 17:00 and return to Wills Memorial Building by **coach** provided.

We will have a base in Bedminster Cricket Club Pavilion and will retreat to it for lunch, the discussion at the end of the day and more 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 (you can fill with tap water at the University or at the Cricket Club), sunhat, sunscreen, any medication and sanitary supplies you may need for the day, notebook and pencils in a small rucksack*.

There are toilets at the Cricket Club and in two locations in the park. The terrain includes flat meadows, steep grassy slopes, woods with rocky areas, metalled and gravel paths and pavements. 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 the most water and grit out.