



July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 12 A Level Geography NEA (Non examined element)

Following our fieldwork week in June 2026, Year 12 have been working hard on their Independent Geographical Enquiries. We wanted to spend some time explaining to you how this fits into their scheme of learning, what we as a school are doing to support your child and what you can do at home.

As part of their A level qualification, students must complete a 3000-4000 non-examined element (or NEA) which is worth 20% of their final grade. We call this the Independent Geographical Enquiry (IGE) at Backwell School. This can be a challenging component to complete and when finished, will have the following sections:

Section	Contents	AO
Abstract of up to 250 words	Synopsis of the investigation, with research question and link to specification clearly stated. (Might be helpful to include brief description of location here)	
1. Context	Background to the individual research question or issue; conceptual framework, including theoretical background; risk assessment and ethical issues supported by literature and background material.	AO1
2. Methods of field investigation	Methods used to observe, measure and record phenomena in the field applied to the data collection methods linked to a clear and appropriate research question; role undertaken in data collection (individual and / or group) with justification.	AO3.1
3. Data presentation of findings with a range of techniques	Communicating field (primary) and secondary data / information collected through appropriate presentation techniques, allowing suitable analysis to be made, using quantitative and qualitative skills	AO3.3
4. Analysis and interpretation of findings	Analysis, interpretation / justification of findings in the light of data / information collected; data presentation techniques	AO3.2
5. Conclusions	Drawing well-evidenced conclusions, synthesising findings, and informed by theoretical background underpinning the research given in the introduction.	AO3.3
6. Evaluation	A succinct, critical reflection of every stage of the whole investigation in order to appreciate the strengths and limitations of the field (primary) and secondary data, accuracy, degree of reliability and / or errors or misuse of data, bias, appreciate views and interests of stakeholders, methods used, findings and conclusions drawn; suggestions for further improvements and / or further research.	AO2.1c
Presentation requirements; references, appendices, structure	Bibliography of secondary information and relevant appendices included. Guidance on references, the word count and appendices can be found in Section 3.2 on page 42	AO3.3

It is very much an *independent* investigation where students have to design their own titles, methods, data collection and presentation techniques so, to help them design their investigations, this is where the fieldwork week came in. We spent the week showing them potential investigation ideas and data collection methods. Students have been using the skills they learnt to decide how their investigation is going to run.

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What is the school doing to support this process?

The following are things we are doing to ensure your child comes out with the best possible outcome:

- All lessons since the fieldwork in June have focused on the IGE
- All home learning tasks are IGE-based (this is 3-4 hours a week)
- We have created an IGE page on FROG with huge amounts of information about every section
- We organised the fieldwork week for students to understand the IGE process
- Students will be set weekly deadlines(see paragraph below)

To make things as easy for the students as possible, we set weekly deadlines throughout the process to match the different sections of the investigation. The students who are most successful with this part of the course are those who stick to those deadlines and those who use their home learning time properly to work on this investigation. We have set the following deadlines for this term and summer holidays:

- By **Monday 13 July 2026** - draft Candidate Record Forms handed in (these are the initial forms that students complete to explain how their investigation will run). As teachers, we must approve these Candidate Record Forms. As well as completed literature review.
- By **Friday 17 July** - Introduction, methodology and data collection sheets.
- Over the summer holidays - students collect the necessary data for their investigation

We will send you a separate letter at the start of Year 13 informing you of the next deadlines. We would really appreciate it if you could have regular conversations with your child checking in with them to see how their IGE is coming along. Talk to them about what they plan on doing and how they plan on collecting the data and check in with them about how they are getting on with deadlines. If they are stuck and you're not sure how to guide them, refer them to the IGE FROG page we have mentioned earlier in this letter or, tell them to talk to us.

Please can we also ask that a **£25 deposit is paid**, if your child intends on borrowing fieldwork equipment from us for the summer. This is to cover any costs in the unlikely event of lost or damaged equipment. This can be paid via ParentPay and will be returned promptly on the return of the equipment in September 2026.

We hope this letter helps you understand the NEA process. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at msales@backwellschool.net

Yours sincerely

Mr M Sales
Subject Leader for Geography