



Backwell School

An Ofsted Outstanding School
A National Teaching School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Year 9 Geography : Home Learning Portfolio

The Geography department is committed to our students continuing their learning at home and, for several years, we have promoted a Geography 'Home Learning Portfolio' for all Year 9 students. Our aim is to make homework effective, purposeful, meaningful and challenging. We also want to encourage independent study skills by allowing our students to plan and manage their own time.

The Home Learning Portfolio will consist of four tasks each term, of which your son/daughter will choose two. These tasks are designed to cover a number of skills, although some have a specific focus within Geography, e.g., using ICT, numeracy, literacy, fieldwork, etc. One task each term will be identified as the 'challenge' task and we are encouraging all students to stretch themselves and work to their potential.

These portfolios will be handed out at the start of each term and a clear deadline will be given for submitting the work. Each Home Learning Portfolio will be uploaded to Frog, as will all supporting materials; students will be shown where these resources are. The deadline will also be displayed on Frog. The portfolio will sit alongside more traditional homework tasks, such as revision for an upcoming test.

We know that for some students this will be more difficult than for others and there will be interim deadlines and support in place from all Geography teachers. Please do not hesitate to contact the Geography department with any queries or concerns you may have. We believe that our geographers are capable of producing outstanding work and we hope that by offering students choice, by challenging them and by giving them the opportunity to be creative, we will inspire them to produce excellent geographical work at home.

If you have any queries regarding this scheme, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

C Turner
Deputy Head of Geography