

Principal: Richard Spencer



ELY COLLEGE

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24th May 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

27th – 29th June 2018 - Independent Learning Archaeological Field School (ILAFS) 3-day dig

Six years ago Ely College was awarded Beacon School status as part of the Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) programme run by The University of Cambridge. We are very proud of this recognition and hope it will raise aspirations for higher education in our young people. As part of our Beacon School status, we have been working with our CMAT trust and other local schools to invite them in joining our students each year on the Independent Learning Archaeological Field School programme (ILAFS). This year's ILAFS is to be held on the 27th - 29th June in Great Gidding near Sawtry. There are approximately **10 places** on the course open to Ely College students whose targeted grades indicate an aptitude for higher education, especially top tier universities such as Cambridge. Your child meets such criteria and I would like to invite them to join us. Spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis. They need not have an interest in archaeology, rather a curiosity about studying any subject at university level.

The ILAFS are 3-day non-residential courses providing young people with the opportunity to work in small, mixed-school teams to complete a practical investigation involving collecting, analysing and writing up their own unique new data gained during a 2-day archaeological excavation making new discoveries which will contribute to current research at the University of Cambridge. On the third day they are invited to explore the Colleges. The programme is endorsed by the University of Cambridge and the OCR exam board in recognition of the level of cross curricular challenge it offers young people to achieve in 3 distinct areas: 1) practical fieldwork, 2) personal, learning and thinking skills and 3) data analysis and report writing. You can access further information on this via the following website <http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/fieldacademies.html> I would stress at this point that the report writing is **an important piece of work that will require students to do independent research and study at home after the 3-day course** to complete. Support will be offered in school time, giving students the skills and a strong understanding of how to complete the assessment, but this is a serious commitment that can support their college and university application in the future, if done well.

We will be leaving college at approximately 6:40am and aiming for a 4-4:30pm return (TBC each day). Students will need to make arrangements to make their way home from the college. Further details will follow regarding appropriate clothing if they secure a place.

Unfortunately places on ILAFS digs are no longer funded externally and ACA have had to **request a £40.00 fee** for each place for the 3 days. Therefore, in order for this visit to take place, we ask you to make a total contribution of the full cost of **£40.00** towards the visit. Although such contribution is voluntary, in reality we have no alternative source of funding. If sufficient contributions are not received to make the visits financially viable it will be cancelled and all contributions will be refunded. In cases of financial hardship, any requests for the contribution to be waived will be treated sympathetically; please contact the Principal in writing. As this is an educational visit and is taking place in school hours, we are not permitted by law (Education Act 1996) to exclude from such visits a student of parents choosing not to contribute to the cost. If your child is eligible for pupil premium grant support and you would like to access some of this funding towards this trip, then please indicate on the reply slip.

If you are happy for your son/daughter to take part in this event, please complete the relevant sections of the ILAFS application form sent out with this letter.

We would prefer you to make your payment online, but if this is not possible, please make your cheque payable to "Ely College". Please can you also advise me of any medical conditions or dietary requirements which your son/daughter has that may impact on this event and return both the form and slip to the Finance Office **by Tuesday 5th June**. Should you have any questions regarding this letter then please contact me via email: kvella@elycollege.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Kerri Vella (Mrs)

ILAFS Beacon School and Archaeology Club Coordinator





To: Finance Office – ILAFS 3-day archaeology trip – K Vella

Student's Name: (please print) Form:

- My child would like to take part in the ILAFS trip on the **27th – 29th June 2018**
- I have paid £40.00 online (preferred option)**
- I have enclosed £40.00 (cheque payable to Ely College)
- My child is eligible for PP grant support and I would like to access some of this funding towards this trip
- I am happy for photos of my child to be used to promote the college and ACA, including on the website and social media
- My child is entitled to Free School Meals and will require a packed lunch each day

Dietary/Medical issues which may impact on the event:

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Emergency Contact Number:

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Signed (Parent/Carer)

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Name in Print:

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Date:

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Please return both the application form and this slip to the Finance Office by Tuesday 5th June. Thank you.