

03 June 2020

Dear Parents

## Co-Curricular Opportunities – Science & Research Expedition Internships

I am writing regarding a unique and fantastic opportunity to take part in a recognised academic research programme. I am eager to support our continued ethos of learning outside the classroom and giving students at RGHSW a different perspective. I am a huge proponent that memorable experiences lead to memorable learning and as part of RGSHW's co-curricular provision we want to continue to offer students world class opportunities despite the current global challenges.

We have been in discussion with one of the schools suppliers who have put together a work experience and learning programme designed not only to give students an insight into scientific research, project management as well as logistics and safety operations in the field, but to develop a range of core skills that are both directly relevant to further education in STEM subjects and transferable to many other career paths, as well as linking closely to their school curricula.

Operation Wallacea is a network of academics from European and North American universities, who design and implement biodiversity and conservation management research expeditions.

To give you an example of the work that Operation Wallacea undertake you can view their virtual lecture series here - <https://www.opwall.com/ex-situ/>. I thoroughly recommend the Dr Niall McCann lecture.

Placements will be run entirely online, allowing students to work from home whilst recreating a genuine work-from-home environment via a carefully managed daily schedule, regular deadlines and constant contact with managing staff via remote working software including Microsoft Teams.

### Science Internship

Students choose from a project they wish to work on, including:

- Coral reef ecology
- Rainforest Ecology
- Spider monkey behaviour
- Large mammals in an African savannah

They will then complete a week-long programme designed to support them through the entire research process, from project conception and data collection, to data analysis and science communication, producing a final scientific report that would be ideal as an independent research project towards their broader studies and which could also be used for IB Internal Assessments or as the start of an Extended essay or EPQ. Our programme will include introductions to computer coding in R, GIS and the production of maps, and statistical analysis of data and training in how to produce a good quality science report.

### Research Expedition Management Internship

This internship will give an introduction with daily online training and follow-on practical's, in how to establish a new biodiversity research expedition in a forest and marine site in Guatemala. Training and exercises on:

- Developing risk assessments
- Medical and evacuation plans
- Designing safe diving procedures
- Comms with field teams and between camps
- How to medically support the team in the field
- Given research objectives that need to be achieved, what methods and scientists are needed to complete the programme

This opportunity is open to anyone in Yr 11, 12 & 13 (though for those in year 12 please be aware of dates due to #learnathome). Please also be aware the places are very limited with a maximum capacity of 50 students in each internship. Students will be expected to be available for 5 full working days, starting at 9am on the first day of the placement. They will be contacted prior to this to test the online technology. The tuition, training and work required will take on average 6 hours per day. There will be a mixture of tutorials, discussions and practical tasks.

Due to the nature of the internship students will require access to a computer with a good enough internet connection to support VoIP (voice over internet protocol calling such as skype, teams or whatsapp)

The cost is £100 per student and places can be booked here - <https://www.opwall.com/schools/educational-benefits/work-experience/>

This is a considerably commitment and must be undertaken in that knowledge. This is an in-depth study that will require the same dedication and attention that you would lend to any other school subject. You will be representing the school within a professional academic organization.

If you have any questions, please do contact me on [dec@rgshw.com](mailto:dec@rgshw.com). I genuinely hope you are inspired and excited by this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

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