

Hands on Biology is best

“Each year 1 or 2 pupils totally change their plans for University and opt for Marine Biology as a result of the Dale Fort field trip”

Head of Biology, Caterham School

A-Level Biology students from Caterham School in Surrey come to **FSC Dale Fort** in Pembrokeshire each August. Biology teachers at the school are passionate about their subject and their main objective is to enthuse students as much as possible. A vital part of this is to give the students as many opportunities as possible to experience practical fieldwork.



Head of Biology Dan Quinton explains: *“The reason we bring our students to Dale Fort each year is to give them 5 days of glorious real life Biology. Our priority is for it to be fun and to make them love the subject even more. The trip makes them realise what a practical and hands on subject Biology is.”*

The field trip is part of the AQA A-Level Biology course at Caterham School. On their most recent trip the students undertook various activities including rocky shore transects,

saltmarsh studies, mark release recapture, seine netting, and plankton sampling. Dale Fort’s unique location right on the rocky coast of Pembrokeshire makes it an ideal base for exploring the shore and sea life.

One of the experienced field teachers at FSC Dale Fort is Carolyn Waddell who adds: *“Out of classroom learning has such an important role to play in developing students’ enthusiasm and understanding. Students have the opportunity to experience all the practical techniques required for their exams, but we also introduce them to new environments and give them the opportunity to experience things they otherwise might not get to do during their studies. Hearing the students say that they ‘...never realised biology could be so much fun’ confirms just how inspirational fieldwork can be.”*

Dan said: *“I particularly want the pupils to do marine biology and each year 1 or 2 pupils totally change their plans for University and opt for Marine Biology as a result of the Dale Fort field trip.*



Students from Caterham School Dan Quinton

The feedback we get from students is unanimously positive. The usual response is that it is ‘the best school trip they have ever been on’.

Click for more information on [Biology Fieldwork](#) courses

Contact: FSC Head office, Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1HW

Tel: 01743 852100 Fax: 01743 852101 Email: enquiries@field-studies-council.org Website: www.field-studies-council.org