

# Week away boosts Geography grades

*“The fieldwork experience enabled the students to attain results well above the average”* Head of Geography

Students from **John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre** in Herefordshire spent a week at **Nettlecombe Court**, a Field Studies Council (FSC) Centre in Somerset, which was not only great fun but also helped with their Geography A and AS Level results.

Mr Howes, Head of Geography at the school describes some of the activities undertaken on the course in February 2010: *“We spent time on fieldwork techniques looking at the river, beach and drainage basin. Students learnt investigative techniques and used GIS. The second part of the course involved each student planning and carrying out an individual fieldwork project, which was later written up and used to help their revision.”*



Students from John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre Mr N Howes

Each FSC Centre has a team of qualified and highly trained teaching staff. The course tutor was Ben Bryant who said: *“Coming for a slightly longer than average stay resulted in the students getting far more from the course than shorter visits. They left in a very strong position, well prepared and equipped for the fieldwork assessments in Units 2 and 4 of their exam board.”*

*“Very positive relationships developed between myself, Mr Howes and the students themselves, resulting in them feeling more able to ask questions and find information out. The group were a pleasure to teach and mixed enthusiasm and motivation with a relaxed and fun approach to the week.”*

In the summer the Year 12 students entered AQA module 2 (AS) and module 4A (A2) and were delighted with the results achieved. Mr Howes explains: *“The summer post-exam analysis from eAQA showed clearly that the fieldwork experience at Nettlecombe enabled the students to attain results well above the average figures for the whole national cohort for AQA Geography for both modules.”*

*“Despite the focus on external exam requirements the students hugely enjoyed being outdoors and measuring environmental variables in the beautiful setting of North Somerset. Their understanding of concepts covered in the classroom leaped ahead and they thoroughly enjoyed the trip.”*