



9 November 2018

Dear Parent

Expedition to South East Sulawesi, Indonesia
Sunday 19 July to Saturday 1 August 2020 (with at least a day either side to allow for travel)

Following the success of this year's expedition to Indonesia with the scientific research and conservation organisation Operation Wallacea, I am delighted to inform you of a further opportunity open to our current Year 11 and 12 students to take part in a similar project during the summer of 2020.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students who are intending to study biology at A level and beyond, but any students with an interest in biology and conservation is welcome to attend. Students will spend two weeks gaining hands-on experience of what is involved within biology fieldwork and the completion of ecological surveys that feed into both local and worldwide conservation management plans. As well as completing practical fieldwork and gaining a deeper understanding of some of the areas of the A level biology course, such expeditions offer students the opportunity to gain extra UCAS points by completing the Extended Project Qualification. The expedition and their experiences can also provide an interesting discussion topic within university applications.

For their first week, students will be based in the endemic-rich rainforests of Buton Island in South-East Sulawesi. It is here that they will help scientists and academics collect data on biodiversity, which will be used to measure how well the forests are being protected under their proposed conservation management strategies. Students will complete jungle survival skills training and help take part in various surveys such as forest measurement, (to quantify the amount of carbon stored), butterfly surveys, bird point count surveys, herpetofauna surveys, large mammal and bird surveys, (looking for macaques, hornbills, anoa and wild pig), and bat surveys. Students will also complete a course on the Ecology of the Wallacea Forests.

For the second week of the visit, the group will be based in either Bau Bau or Hoga which are at the centre of the Coral Triangle – the most diverse reef system in the world. Here students will learn to dive to PADI Open Water level, or if they are already dive-trained (or prefer to snorkel), complete an Indo Pacific reef ecology course. The reef ecology course will cover the importance of the marine environment, along with underwater surveying techniques.

We estimate the total cost of the expedition to be £2,700 per participant, and this can be paid by making monthly instalments over an 18-month period. The price includes participation in the Operation Wallacea programme, flights, internal travel, park fees, reef fees, PADI Manual and dive hire. Students will be strongly encouraged to raise funds, both on an individual basis and as part of a team, in order to contribute towards the cost of the expedition.

A representative from Operation Wallacea will be joining us for an informal session to discuss the potential two-week expedition. This presentation will take place at Emmanuel College on Wednesday 28 November 2018 at 6:30pm.

Please [click here](#) and complete the form **by Friday 16 November** if you would like to attend the presentation evening to learn more about the expedition.

I look forward to seeing you on the evening.

Yours sincerely

Miss R Clegg
Science Department