**GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT**

Geography is a very successful department and our aim is for students to enjoy the subject, become independent learners and take responsibility for their own learning. We consistently achieve above the national average for our exam results; our A’Level results have seen the greatest improvement over the last couple of years. We are an active fieldwork department and currently run our own field days from year 7 through to year 13. We are able to run a wide variety of different geographical investigations internally for both physical and human research. Each year group at KS3 has 1 day’s fieldwork per year, KS4 have 2 days (1 physical and 1 human geography) and KS5 have 4 days. These 4 days are spread across yr 12 and yr 13. During a year, the typical fieldwork is as follows:

* Yr 7 – Rivers Investigation, River Darent, Kent
* Yr 8 – Ecosystem Investigation, London Zoo
* Yr 9 – Impact of proposed Paramount theme park on Kent
* Yr 10 and 11 – Coastal investigation, South Coast and Quality of Life investigation In Stratford, London
* Yr 12 and 13 – Rebranding/Regeneration in Stratford, quality of life in Eastbourne, Sand dune and Salt marsh investigation, Chichester Harbour, Coastal investigation, South Coast

During the Easter holidays, students have the opportunity to visit some fantastic locations. Last Easter, students spent 5 days in Iceland and this year they are off to Sicily. This trip is offered to students taking KS4 and KS5 geography only.

Students are taught in mixed ability classes in all Key Stages, through a range of techniques and activities. We are not a department that relies on textbooks in any keystage, producing most of our resources ourselves. All lessons are pre-planned and resourced by a Keystage 3 and 4 Co-ordinator who is responsible for over-seeing the development of all SOW and the reproduction of student resources for every lesson.

Key Stage 3 students in Year 7 will have one lesson per week of geography, Year 8 will have 2 lessons per week and Year 9 will have three lessons per fortnight. On average we have approx. 115 students who chose to take geography at GCSE, which results in 5 classes at KS4, following Edexcel B specification.

At KS5 we follow OCR – students do not take the AS, but all commit to the 2 year A’Level course. Currently there are over 30 students studying geography at A’Level.