The Geography Department is a thriving department within our outstanding school. There are three full time and two part time specialist geography teachers who all teach across the full age and ability range. The Geography Department occupies a suite of specialist rooms with excellent access to resources and facilities. All rooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards. The department has its own dedicated set of laptops as well as good access to the school’s excellent ICT facilities and library. Fieldwork is a fundamental part of the department’s work, with pupils in every year group getting the opportunity to engage in data collection and investigation. Capitation is also high to ensure all teachers have the best resources to maintain the high quality of teaching and learning expected in the school.

The curriculum at Key Stage 3 is based around five key geographical themes which the pupils visit in each year. There are detailed schemes of work, a large and well organised bank of electronic and paper resources with a full range of up-to-date textbooks. Creativity is greatly valued within the teaching team and new resources are continually developed and shared by all members of the department. The results in summer 2017 were GCSE 58% A\*-C, with 19% at A\*-A, AS Level A\*-C 46% and A Level A\*-C 90%.

GCSE Geography is a very popular option with over 150 pupils in next year’s Year 10 cohort. The department follows the new OCR ‘A’ syllabus. Numbers are also growing at Geography A level and there currently two Year 12 classes as well as a class in Year 13. The department follows the new OCR syllabus – options covered this year include Glacial Landscape Systems and Disease Dilemmas. Visits and fieldwork play a vital role in pupils’ learning. Tasks and location are varied from urban and river studies, through conferences on tectonics and GIS, to residential trips including North Wales, Sicily, Iceland and last year to South West USA.

Geography is very important to the success of the school and is a popular and friendly department. It is well positioned to enjoy the challenges of the future.

**Mr S Berry**Head of Geography

March 2018