



# SAINT AIDAN'S

Church of England High School

## TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY

*Aspire & Believe & Succeed*

Required for 1st September 2018

(Start date of 1st June 2018 also possible)

MPR / UPR

### Message from Headteacher

Thank you for your interest in joining us at Saint Aidan's, a successful, over-subscribed Church of England High School in rural Lancashire. I am proud to be able to lead the school, and believe that it will provide an ideal environment for you to begin or continue your career in the teaching profession.

The Governors are looking for a committed and inspirational full time teacher to join our Geography Department and Humanities Faculty. The successful candidate will join a highly capable and experienced team and will be able to grow professionally in a supportive environment. Applications from newly qualified teachers and experienced teachers are equally welcome.

Geography is a real strength of Saint Aidan's, and is a very popular and high achieving subject at GCSE. In 2017 there were four GCSE Geography classes, with 80% of students achieving A\*-C and 30% A\*-A. It is the success and popularity of the department along with the growth of the school which has led to this new appointment being needed. David Eccles, who is our Head of Geography and of the Humanities Faculty, is a Specialist Leader of Education and is at the forefront of developing Geography across our region.

I hope that, having read the enclosed information and looked at the information about the school on our website, you feel encouraged to apply. Please complete the application form and include a supporting letter (no more than two sides of A4 please) which tells us how your skills and experience have prepared you for the challenges of this post, as well as giving us a flavour of your vision for teaching Geography at Saint Aidan's. Please note that the first part of Question 7 of the Application Form asks for details of a faith referee. A faith commitment is not essential for this post so you should omit this section if you are unable to provide such details.

Completed application forms and supporting letters should be returned to arrive no later than 12 noon on Monday, 15th January 2018. Applications may be submitted by post or by email. Emailed applications should be sent to [recruitment@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk) and will be acknowledged on receipt. Interviews are planned for the week beginning Monday, 22nd January.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely,

**Andy Smith, Headteacher**



**Andy Smith, Headteacher**

**Post:** Teacher of Geography

**Line Manager:**  
Director of Faculty,  
David Eccles

**Start Date:**  
Required for 1st September 2018  
(Start date of 1st June 2018 possible)

**Closing date for applications:**  
12 noon on Monday,  
15th January 2018

**Interviews:**  
Week commencing Monday,  
22nd January 2018

Electronic applications are accepted in Microsoft Word or PDF format.

Please email to  
**[recruitment@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk)**

# Aspire Believe Succeed

## School Information

Saint Aidan's is a successful and popular 11-16 co-educational Church of England school with 800 students situated in a very pleasant part of the Fylde in Lancashire. We draw our students from a wide area which includes the rural area of Over Wyre, as well as a number of areas on the edge of Blackpool and Fleetwood. The school is within easy reach of the cities of Lancaster and Preston and the town of Blackpool.

Our students achieve very well, and there is a real will in the school to improve even further. In 2017 77% of students achieved at least grade 4 in the new English and Maths GCSEs (the equivalent of a C grade) and our results place us among the highest performing schools on the Fylde coast.

The school's commitment to learning extends to staff as well as students; there is a well developed structure of support for new members of staff and a culture of "lifelong learning" among our teaching and associate staff. Our in-house CPD programme is important to us and we are continually looking to develop innovative approaches to teaching and learning, with an emphasis on the use of modern technology and collaborative learning. All teaching staff have access to an iPad, and all of our classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards or touch displays. Individual tablet devices are used by students in the classroom.

The school was inspected by Ofsted in October 2013 and was found to be a Good school with Outstanding Behaviour and Safety. This is a significant improvement on our previous inspection and is a marker on our journey towards being a school which is Outstanding in all areas. An inspection by SIAMS in March 2017 found us to be Outstanding in two areas and Good in the other two. Following several years of under-recruitment of students we are now full in Years 7-10, with many more first choice applications than places available for September 2017. The majority of our students travel to us by bus and choose



Saint Aidan's over schools nearer their homes because of our individual care for students, our calm and purposeful atmosphere, our high academic standards and our Christian ethos.

As a church school we have a strong emphasis on the provision of a stimulating, secure and caring environment within which all members of our community can develop their potential to the full. Relationships within the school community are characterised by mutual respect; this creates a safe environment where young people can grow and develop, and where learning is valued. There is a strong "vertical" pastoral structure, built around forms that contain students from all five year groups. Our collective worship draws staff and students together and encourages them to explore life's big issues. The school's ethos is distinctively Christian but is also inclusive of those of other faiths or none.

We work closely with our local primary schools, sixth forms, FE providers and universities. Further afield the school has many links with partners in Britain and abroad, including strong links with partner schools in South Africa and Germany. Students can participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and educational visits in this country and further afield. All staff are encouraged to contribute to this programme.

Our school 'motto' is taken from John 10 v 10 - "I have come that they may have life in all its fullness". All we do at Saint Aidan's is aimed at making this a reality for our students and staff.



**Ofsted say that Saint Aidan's is a good school where the behaviour of pupils is outstanding.**



**What the parents think...**

**"My daughter loves her new school, she looks forward to going every morning and comes home with a smile on her face every night. Thank you to all concerned, you have done a brilliant job."**

**(Year 7 parent)**



**"The school has always been supportive to all our children. I think one of the reasons is the fact that the unique pastoral system allows the pupils at the school to develop friendships with others in different years; it also fosters positive relationships with their form tutor with whom they remain for the whole of their time at the school."**

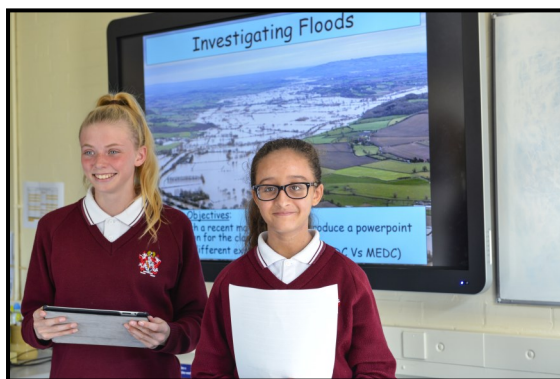
**(Year 11 parent)**



# Departmental and Faculty Information

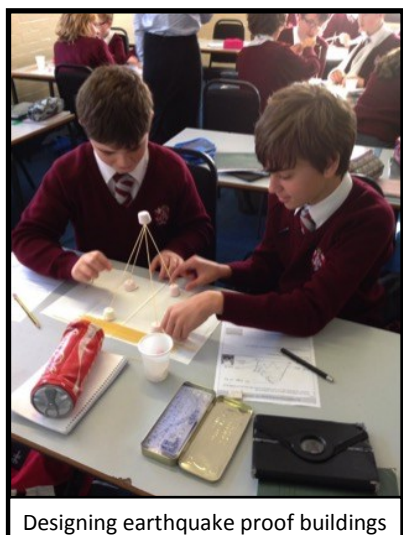
## The Humanities Faculty

Humanities at Saint Aidan's is a well-established faculty which includes Geography, History, Religious Education and Citizenship. There is a strong record of academic success, with many students going on from school to study Humanities subjects at A Level. Currently there are six full time specialist teachers in the faculty, including a Faculty Director who is also Teaching and Learning Coordinator for Geography. There are separate Teaching and Learning Coordinators for both History and Religious Education. The Geography department is led by a Specialist Leader in Education who enjoys working at the forefront of Geography education both at Saint Aidan's and with other schools around the county.



## The Geography Department

Geography is a very popular subject at Saint Aidan's, with 120 students in Year 10 for the 2017-18 academic year. At Key Stage 4 the department follows the AQA syllabus. Students have two and a half hours of Geography per week over the two-year GCSE cycle with average class sizes of between 20 and 28. Last year the department achieved excellent GCSE results with 80% of students achieving A\*-C grades and 30% achieving A\*/A grades.



Students in Key Stage 3 enjoy the thematic approach we take to delivering Geography. Many of the popular, well established schemes of work are regularly updated to reflect the many changes experienced recently with both the 2014 National Curriculum and the new GCSE syllabus. When opportunities present themselves the department are passionate about creating exciting new units of work that inspire our



*Saint Aidan's is the ideal location to teach Geography. The beautiful school grounds and surrounding countryside, backed by the Bowland Fells, provide the perfect daily inspiration for any teacher, especially a Geographer.*

*On meeting the students and staff it soon became apparent to me, four years ago, that I was going to enjoy my time teaching at Saint Aidan's.*

*Both students and staff work hard to develop strong professional relationships that enable us to work together to help them become successful learners. There is a friendly, supportive atmosphere around school that can often only be found in smaller schools. In the Geography department we aim to encourage excellent achievement in all students of all abilities whilst developing a lifelong interest in the subject.*

*I feel that it is a really exciting time to become a member of the Geography department. The passion and commitment with which Geography is taught means that the subject is very popular across school. The number of students studying Geography at GCSE has tripled over the past four years. At the same time we are constantly working hard to create a bespoke, engaging and exciting curriculum for all of our students. Combine all of these things with the desire to promote Geography outside of the classroom and you will begin to understand that we really want to go places; quite literally!*

### David Eccles

Director of Humanities / Teaching and Learning Coordinator for Geography





# Departmental and Faculty Information (continued)

students. In Years 7 and 9 classes have three hours of Geography or History per week which operate on a half term carousel. All Year 8 classes study Geography for 2 hours per week throughout the year.

The department works hard to develop a range of activities that enhance our students' geographical experiences and complement the curriculum we offer. Fieldwork is an essential part of this programme and students across both Key Stages are provided with the opportunity to complete field studies within the local area. Further afield, we run an annual family field trip to Malham in the Yorkshire Dales and we are running our second trip to Iceland in February 2018 for many of our GCSE geographers.

In school the department is passionate about developing active geographers who are keen to take their place as global citizens. This results in many of our students participating in practical projects, including regular Fairtrade events, sponsoring areas of rainforest or selling large quantities of fairly traded rice to help send children to school in Malawi. Please look at our department Twitter feed to get an idea of some of the projects our students love.

The department is well resourced, with class teachers having their own teaching rooms. All staff and students have tablets for use in class and as such we have access to a range of apps and software to develop GIS in the classroom. We also have an active membership with the Geographical Association.



Year 9 Fieldwork in Garstang



Examining flood defences in Cleveleys



GCSE Fieldwork in Bowness



Field visit to Iceland



<b>PERSON SPECIFICATION FORM</b> <b>POST TITLE: TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY</b>	<b>Essential (E)</b> <b>or</b> <b>Desirable (D)</b>	<b>To be identified by:</b> <b>application form (F),</b> <b>interview (I),</b> <b>reference (R)</b>
<b>QUALIFICATIONS</b>  Qualified Teacher Status  Degree in Geography or related discipline  Further study and / or professional development	E  E  D	F  F  F
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>  Successful teaching or teaching practice experience in Geography	E	F/I/R
<b>KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS</b>  Up to date knowledge of the school Geography curriculum  Ability to teach Geography across the 11-16 age range, including GCSE  Ability to teach Geography lessons of a consistently high quality, getting the best out of young people  Ability to use ICT proficiently in the classroom  Knowledge of recent developments in Geography education  Ability to teach another subject (inside or outside the Humanities Faculty) at KS3	E  E  E  D  D  D	F/I/R  F/I/R  F/I/R  F/I/R  F/I/R  F/I/R
<b>PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES</b>  Commitment to an ethos of high standards and success  Ability to work as part of a team  Energy, stamina and determination  Capacity to inspire young people	E  E  E  E	F/I/R  F/I/R  F/I/R  F/I/R
<b>OTHER</b>  Commitment to own professional development  Commitment to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and young people  Willingness to support the Christian ethos of the school	E  E  E	F/I/R  F/I/R  F/I



# Aspire Believe Succeed



## Our School Values

### We aspire

- ♦ to give each one of our students the best possible education to prepare them for a successful and fulfilling life
- ♦ to build a community based on mutual respect and tolerance
- ♦ to open minds and provide a rich experience inside and beyond the classroom

### We believe

- ♦ in a school with the Christian faith and Christian values at its heart
- ♦ in the God-given potential of each of our students
- ♦ in the value of every member of our school community of all faiths and none

### We succeed

- ♦ by excellence in teaching and learning
- ♦ by fostering a purposeful and disciplined atmosphere where all can thrive
- ♦ by students, staff, parents and the wider community working together

Ofsted say that relationships between students and with adults are first rate.



What the students say...

“The lessons are all absolutely brilliant! My favourite has got to be IT because we research all sorts of fun and fascinating things and I am learning so much.”

(Year 7 student)



“Saint Aidan’s is a very welcoming environment where nobody is lost and we are all treated as one. It has provided me with many opportunities to push myself, not just academically but with self confidence too.”

(Head Girl)



Our school “motto” is taken from John 10 v10 –

**“I have come that they may have life in all its fullness”.**

All we do at Saint Aidan’s is aimed at making this true for our students and staff.

