



## **Geography Department**

The Geography Department at Nicholas Chamberlaine School prides itself on being dynamic and forward-thinking. We are always looking for ways to improve our pedagogy and practice in order to provide students with an excellent educational experience.

At the heart of our approach is a desire to extend our students' learning beyond the classroom. To this end we have developed a strong extra-curricular ethos, running residential trips to Norfolk in Key Stage 3 and the Jurassic Coast at GCSE. In April 2018 we will be taking our first group to Iceland to study tectonics. All students in Year 7 are given the opportunity to attend an annual trip to Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire to spend the day studying river processes. We intend to improve our curriculum offer further by providing more experiences for students to investigate their local community. We also now offer two field work days for all GCSE students in the local area and in Birmingham. We are thriving at GCSE level where we follow the new AQA GCSE specification and are now extending the department to include A Level with a group in Year 12.

We have also built strong links with local and national groups, such as the British Cartographic Society, Warwickshire County Council, Severn Trent Water, and Rotary International. We are also developing links with The University of Birmingham, and Warwick University in order to ensure we are embedding research-led best practice.

Our greatest strength is our relationships with students. We feel that the Geography department is a warm and welcoming place. Indeed, you will often find students in our classrooms during lunch times and after school, either working or socialising. The Department is considered to be one of the strongest in the school and there is scope to continue its development. We are looking in to the possibility of applying for the Geographical Association's Secondary Geography Mark as a recognition of the continuing development of the department.

In Geography, we firmly believe that our role as educators is to enrich the lives of our students in order to equip them with the knowledge and skills that they will need to be successful learners and socially engaged, world citizens. For us, teaching Geography is more than just learning about people and places, it is about genuinely supporting learners in reaching their potential in order to improve our society.