**Department Details: Geography Department**

1. **Departmental Overview; including the departmental vision**

The Geography department offers a strong academic pathway at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5, with increasing popularity in the latter stages.

The vision of the geography department is to inspire students to become global citizens by exploring their own place in the world, their values and responsibilities to other people, to the environment and to the sustainability of the planet.

We aim to stimulate in our students an interest in and a sense of wonder about the world around them. We also aim to equip our students to become independent learners with the ability to question, investigate and to think critically about issues affecting a dynamically changing world both now and in the future. Our curriculum provides a broad balance of physical and human geography ensuring students see the link between the two disciplines, an essential element of the KS4 and KS5 curriculum. Encouraging scholarly attributes have become integral to the department with more prep and project homework’s which allow pupils to deepen their understanding and allow them to express their views and opinions with greater confidence.

In order, to provide the pupils with the skills to succeed in later life, we encourage deeper thinking through analysis of geographical artefacts, be that maps, graphs, photographs and express their opinions in different ways, newspaper articles, debates and letters. Pupils are encouraged to ask as many questions as they are asked, as this enables them to direct their own learning and asking questions is a key skill in geography.

We endeavour to find ways that provide our students with opportunities to learn outside the classroom be it during lesson time, on day trips or on trips at GCSE and A-Level as actually experiencing the concepts we study in the class room in real life never fails to amaze the children.

1. **Curriculum overview**

We encourage students to take up Geography at Key Stage 4 and currently have four GCSE Geography classes in each of Years 9, 10 and 11. Students are taught in both mixed ability and streamed sets to enable learning. The specification followed at Key Stage 4 is:

* AQA Geography

Our A-Level provision enables students to receive a more personalised level of support with smaller class sizes, and all teachers offered the opportunity to teach at this level. Numbers at A-level are increasing each year with very few dropping the subject after Year 12:

* Linear AQA A level, no AS level (20% Geographical fieldwork investigation, 80% exam)
1. **Examination results**

Most of our students have successfully managed to either go on to further education or secure employment after completing their qualification at Harlington School. Results are improving year on year and reflect expected progress levels.

Summer 2017:

A Level – 100% pass rate

GCSE – 46% A-C

1. **Resources and rooming**

We are a well-resourced department and work as a team to develop and share resources. All of our classrooms have been fitted with interactive whiteboards and computers. We also have access to laptops within the department which are regularly used to promote independent learning.

1. **Staffing**

Currently the department is made up of 3 enthusiastic and hardworking permanent members of staff.

Mrs Rachael Butcher

**Subject Leader for Geography**