

**Kingdown School Geography Department
Information for Applicants – May 2021**

Kingdown has a highly successful Geography Department, with both strong GCSE and A-Level results. We pride ourselves on the excellent standard of our teaching, our results, and the team ethos we have created. These pages are designed to give you an outline of the Geography department and help you decide if this is the type of work environment that suits you. I look forward to receiving your application.

Hayley Keeling
Curriculum Leader of Geography

1. Department Structure and Main Responsibilities

The department currently consist of 5 members of staff with varying levels of experience and responsibility. We are committed to providing the best for our students and are passionate about our subject, the staffing structure is as follows:

Hayley Keeling – Curriculum Leader

Georgette Burdett – Second in Department

Sophie Swaile – Geography Teacher/Assistant Head of House

Beth Hockley – Geography and Maths Teacher

Simon Harrison – Geography Teacher

Contact time

Standard teaching contact times in the Geography department at Kingdown are:

- 42 periods per fortnight (84% class contact time) – full time teacher
- 40 periods per fortnight (80% class contact time) – NQT

These contact times compare extremely favourably with many schools.

2. Professional Development

Kingdown prides itself on the quality of the professional development opportunities it offers to both its own staff, and to others. We have a comprehensive NQT induction programme, including regular professional development, INSET meetings and training, and the allocation of a subject mentor (from the Humanities Department) and a teaching 'buddy' (a recently qualified teacher from a different Department), to offer help and support during the first few months in teaching. All of the Department become involved in new staff training and we pride ourselves on giving them a very supportive environment in which to begin their teaching careers. There are many opportunities to take on responsibilities and develop careers within our department.

3. Curriculum

Key Stage 3

In Year 7 and 8, classes are taught by the subject specialist for three periods per fortnight. In Years 9, classes are broadly set according to ability and taught by the subject specialist for four periods per fortnight. We adopt a modular approach with a new topic in each half term. The ethos of our KS3 is that we provide students with the skills needed to succeed later on in the school whilst maintaining a curiosity about the world around them. Students are assessed by a model based around the assessment objectives at GCSE. Each unit is fully resourced with a detailed scheme of work and student fill in booklets, the KS3 curriculum feeds into the GCSE and A-Level.

Key Stage 4

We are the most popular options subject at GCSE with 6 classes in both Y10 and 11. We also offer a “double option” for students who may need more curriculum time to help embed knowledge. Since 2016 we have been teaching the Edexcel B specification, this decision was made due to the variety of topics that were on offer. Classes are again broadly set based upon ability and receive 5 lessons a fortnight. There are two days of fieldwork , to Bristol and Southbourne in Year 10.

Key Stage 5

There are 2 A-Level classes, one in each year. Shared between 2 members of staff for a total of 10 lessons a fortnight. To integrate with the GCSE we teach Edexcel A-Level, as part of the course there are two residential fieldwork opportunities, to the Dorset Coast and East London. Students undertake independent fieldwork during the summer of Year 12 for their NEA.

4. Department Accommodation and Resources

The Geography Department is housed together in one block and comprises a suite of teaching rooms, along with a departmental staffroom. We have developed our own detailed schemes of work across all key stages, and utilise a range of resources including textbooks, reference books and electronic materials.

There is a wide range of audio visual aids, including access to Videos, DVD’s and a digital projector. Each classroom has its own computer and ceiling mounted projector and the Department utilises a number of interactive ICT programs. We have a department Twitter and Instagram account where we share examples of students work both inside and outside of the classroom.

It is expected that you will be committed not only to the caring ethos of the School, but to your subject specialism and to the particular needs of the students in your care. The Department aims to develop and sustain an efficient, effective and challenging role within the School and it is vital that you are committed to this on both a personal and a professional level.

We are looking for someone who can work with a range of students and staff, who is well organised and will support the Curriculum Leader with efficiency and drive; someone who can communicate well with students, colleagues and parents. An enthusiastic professional who is able to fully integrate with a committed Faculty. The person appointed will be fully supported by the Curriculum Leader and other members of the department and by the wider Humanities Faculty system.

5. Further Information

We are looking for an excellent teacher who passionate about Geography and is firmly committed to enhancing the learning experience of our students. We are a highly self-motivated department and you must have the ability to organise, and work hard to deliver engaging and exciting lessons each day whilst maintaining your sense of humour.

In return we will offer you support when you need it, excellent career progression and training, as well as a stimulating and vibrant working atmosphere. If you are looking for a new challenge in a supportive environment with a like-minded team of professionals then we would love to hear from you – and will look forward to meeting you at interview.