



### **DEPARTMENT ETHOS**

We present Geography as an exciting and dynamic subject which gives students the skills they need to make sense of their world. We aim to develop a curiosity in our students which goes beyond the classroom and stays with them throughout their lives. Our motto is 'Geographers solve global problems' which enables us to demonstrate the application and value of geographers in our ever changing world.

### **THE TEAM**

We are a cohesive and supportive team of 9, with 7 based at Newport and 2 at Olney. We share both ideas and resources, and teachers are encouraged to develop areas of Geography that are of particular interest to them.

### **RESOURCES**

The department is well resourced. On the Newport Pagnell Campus there are six classrooms, including two in the Sixth Form Centre. There is also a Geography computer studio which is bookable for lessons. On the Olney campus there are two classrooms.

All classrooms have interactive whiteboards.

We have recently invested in fieldwork equipment, in particular to support the NEA at A Level but it is available for use with all year groups.

### **COURSES**

#### **KS3**

KS3 students are taught in mixed ability groups in 8 and in sets for Year 9. This year we have banded year 7 classes in to two tiers, which will continue in to year 8. An enquiry led approach aims to inspire students and develop knowledge and skills, particularly through their homework. We also value the importance of fieldwork, with students completing an investigation at the end of each year.

#### **KS4**

Geography is a popular option at GCSE. We currently follow the AQA specification.

#### **KS5**

Traditionally Geography has a very high take up and we achieve excellent results year on year. We currently follow the Edexcel specification. Many students go on to study Geography related courses at degree level.

### **FIELDWORK**

Fieldwork and trips are an integral part of the work of the Department and are constantly being reviewed and updated. There is a focus on extending our fieldwork provision.

Currently KS3 students undertake local fieldwork at the end of each year. We also take a number of students away for a Geo-active fieldtrip.

GCSE Geography students undertake two data collection days as part of the GCSE course requirements. This year there are optional residential trips to London and Naples for our year 10 students.

# G E O G R A P H Y D E P A R T M E N T

Currently A Level Geographers spend a week in the Lake District at the start of their course and also go on day trips. Year 13 students have the opportunity to take part in an 'awe and wonder' trip to Iceland.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

Members of the Geography department are involved in significant wider school activities. In particular, we have close links with Save the Children.

The department became one of the GA's Centres of Excellence in 2015.

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