



## **The Geography Department**

The department is well respected in the Trust and consistently achieves strong outcomes for students which are above the national average at all key stages. In 2016 the results were 61% A\*-C grade. In 2017 the GCSE results achieved were 66% A\*-C grade. In 2018 the GCSE results achieved were 61% 9 – 4.

There are four teachers in the department and we are looking for an enthusiastic and inspiring teacher to join our team to teach across Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16-19 STEM College.

All students in Year 9 study Geography for four lessons a fortnight in ability groupings; and we work in collaboration with two feeder middle schools to provide a diverse curriculum across KS3. Topics covered in Year 9 include Russia, population, hazards and begin the AQA GCSE specification.

At GCSE, Geography is our most popular option subject; seven groups in Year 10 and five groups in Year 11 in 2018 – 2019

Fieldwork is undertaken in the local environment and has included a comparison of residential areas in Bedford, traffic management in Cambridge and an evaluation of the impact of the Center Parcs development in Ampthill. We offer optional visits to the Norfolk coastline to investigate coastal management. We have worked in collaboration with another department in a local school to plan schemes of learning.

At A level we offer the Edexcel specification. There are two groups in the current Year 12 and one group in Year 13. Year 12 undertook fieldwork experiences in South Wales to prepare students for the geographical skills elements of the examination. Each year a significant number of students successfully continue their geographical studies at university.

The department has taken Year 11 and Sixth form students to Iceland on three occasions in recent years. The current post holder is part way through an application for the Secondary Geography Quality Mark which the Trust is keen to secure. The department has also developed close links with the Geography Association with some students attending lectures. Over Easter, the department is taking some KS4 and KS 5 pupils to Sheffield University for a geography conference

The department is well resourced with dedicated rooms which have projectors, some of which are interactive, computers, and access to a wide range of teaching resources. The team works collaboratively to develop schemes of learning that educate and engage our students in the modern world. The VLE is an important tool for us and we are developing the use of social media to engage with our students. We also believe in supporting the development of new entrants to the profession and support the work of the Bedfordshire Schools Training Partnership by hosting trainees within the department.



In 2018 the department was awarded the Secondary Geography Association Centre of Excellence Award, one of only nine schools in the country to achieve this accolade.

For further information on the Geography Department please contact Lisa Coulson, Head of Geography [[lcoulson@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:lcoulson@wootton.beds.sch.uk)] and Dawn Bolam, Assistant Principal [[dbolam@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:dbolam@wootton.beds.sch.uk)] who will ensure your questions are answered.