



Geography department - outline of provision

Geography is a successful and forward-thinking department within the college. Standards of teaching and learning are very high and members of staff work cohesively to make significant contributions to both the department and across the college. We are passionate about our specialist areas and our planning, teaching and marking reflects this. We appoint practitioners who are able to reflect this ethos and understand the continued significance of geography within a school curriculum, as well as the value of this subject beyond the classroom.

At Key Stage 3, students are taught in mixed ability groups and receive two lessons of geography per week. Students are assessed regularly using a variety of formative and summative assessment tasks. Key Stage 4 begins in year 10. Geography is a popular subject and we currently have five groups in year 10 and five groups in year 11. Key Stage 4 students receive five lessons of geography per fortnight.

We attach importance to the monitoring of student progress and to the use of intervention strategies, when and where appropriate. We strive to ensure that students are deeply involved in their own learning and are developing the skills needed to be independent learners. Lesson observations of members of the team are consistently good and frequently outstanding. The head of department was new to the post in August 2018 and is an experienced middle and senior leader in schools. He has an extended record of outstanding teaching and learning and is keen to ensure excellence throughout the department. The geography department has four teachers, some of whom are full-time and some part-time. We are currently based in a suite of specialist classrooms, each with an interactive whiteboard and new furniture. Our learning environments are of a high standard.

There are detailed schemes of work, which reflect the National Curriculum at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Schemes of work are constantly evolving and are now close to a point of being fully completed to a high standard and with a range of different styles of learning activity. The department is also well resourced and all materials required for teaching our scheme of work lessons are printed and stored ready for use. This allows the opportunity to reduce planning time, which increases departmental capacity for the development of new ideas and individual approaches. Each member of the department is encouraged to utilise their own strengths and expertise in the classroom.

The geography department teaches the *Eduqas (9-1) Geography B* specification. Involvement and contribution to the development of GCSE schemes of work is expected from all members of the department and our focus for 2020-21 in this respect will be provision of differentiation within schemes of work, development of more meaningful homework opportunities, expanding the use of fieldwork and the introduction of GIS. All colleagues will also be expected to support and provide elements of leadership for our fieldwork opportunities.

The school has an excellent learning support department and teachers work closely with teaching assistants to ensure dedicated high-quality provision for students with additional learning needs.

For any teacher wanting to join a department where they will feel supported, challenged and inspired, the Brockington geography department is the perfect fit, and we welcome applications from all colleagues who believe in the ethos and vision of our school.