



Welcome to Geography at All Hallows!

We are a large, successful and friendly team. We aim to do the basics well and by this, I mean that the main focus of the teachers in our department is to plan and teach interesting and purposeful lessons which help our children achieve the best they can and ignite a life-long engagement in the world around them. My job as Head of Department is to serve my teachers in any way that best helps them achieve this.



We believe in getting to know our students and planning lessons that suit them. We believe in providing feedback that is useful to students (not to parents or to senior staff!). We don't overcomplicate things by filling out pointless pieces of paper, we don't judge on how fancy your PowerPoint is, we like to keep the 'main thing the main thing'. At All Hallows we ask ourselves a simple question, "**In an ideal world, would we want this standard or form of education for our own children?**". It helps keep us focused on what matters and provide the best we collectively can.

Our philosophy works. Last year 92% of our GCSE Geography cohort achieved A*-C. Just shy of 60% of all grades were either A or A*, making us one of the highest achieving departments in the school. This wasn't achieved by having a small selective cohort; we have six GCSE groups a year and we are the most popular option. Studying either History or Geography isn't compulsory at All Hallows, students chose it because they want to study it further. We believe that year 9 are our 'bread and butter' and we work hard to kindle their interest. This success continues into the sixth form and every year a crew of students leave us to study Geography at degree level.

We also achieve these great results because of the fantastic culture that exists in the school, set up by the experienced leadership team. Students are taught to respect staff and respect learning right from the beginning. They are taught that the most valuable thing we can offer as a school is not free time, or sweets (!), but the opportunity to learn. They are taught to say, 'thank you' to the teacher at the end of the lesson, to stand behind their chairs & wait to say good morning before sitting down, to keep uniform standards high... i.e. they are taught that the little things matter. At All Hallows all staff are expected to collectively reinforce and upkeep this message. The children expect you to expect a lot of them.

Naturally, this means that they have high standards of us as well as themselves. They expect, and respect, someone who is an expert in their subject, someone skilful at disseminating this to them, someone who can guide them with authority in how to do well in their exams.

We offer a residential trip to Swanage for about 100 Year 10s each year, a trip to North Wales to study Glacial landforms for the lower sixth and a trip to Iceland for the upper years in October every second year. We also attend G&T quizzes, run a very successful KS3 Geography club and lead the Year 7 activities week programme at the end of the school year.

Finally, and most importantly, we are a brilliant team. We are all very different, and students often remark that no teacher is alike in the Geography department. That doesn't matter. We all play to our strengths. However, we share the same vision and we get along well. It would be important to us that the successful candidate could easily become part of this.

Should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school or at r.halton@allhallows.net.

Mr Ronnie Halton
Head of Geography

