



ST IVO SCHOOL

Details about the Geography and Travel & Tourism Department

The Geography department is highly successful and has been judged 'outstanding over the last 8 years both by Ofsted and internal departmental reviews. We have held the GA's Secondary Geography Quality mark for the last 3 years and are also a Centre of Excellence. We are also part of the Princes Teaching Institute schools programme and have been awarded the PTI mark for the last 4 years. Consequently, Geography is a very popular subject at all key stages and we also deliver BTEC Travel and Tourism Levels 1 and 2.

We are currently a team of seven committed and passionate staff, three of which have additional pastoral responsibilities in other areas of the school. The Geography and Travel and Tourism department is very well resourced with the use of 6 large classrooms and two rooms for sixth form work, a small ICT suite and a dedicated resource area. All classrooms have a smartboard, and the use of new technologies in enhancing teaching and learning is a strength of the department. We have subscriptions to ArcGIS and Digimaps as well as other online resources. Our resources room is stocked with maps, photographs, past examination papers, DVD materials and class sets of textbooks. We also have a very 'well stocked' online area where digital resources created for lessons are shared by all staff. We also encourage online learning using Schoology courses to share resources and updates for our KS4 and KS5 classes. We have a department twitter feed ([@StIvoGeography](#)) and facebook page and as well as a GCSE blog www.geobytesgcse.wordpress.com we have our own dedicated department website www.geobytes.org.uk. Our department has a strong ethic of team work and mutual support and are prepared to go that extra mile, for example in delivering after-school revision sessions to exam groups.

A strong focus exists on the quality of teaching and learning. A key consequence has been the outstanding exam performance over many years across the key stages. GCSE results over the past 3 year have been above 82% A*-C with significant 'value-added' being achieved from large cohorts of mixed ability students and our A2 results have been above 88% A*-C for the last five years. A five-year overview of our results can be found here <http://www.geobytes.org.uk/examresults.html>. The department has a long history in teaching Travel and Tourism at both AS/A2 level and BTEC Level 1 and Level 2 and between 2012-2016, the department had a consistent annual 100% A*-C pass rate in A2 Travel and Tourism. Whilst A Level Travel and Tourism is no longer offered by the exam boards, the department offer BTEC Level 1 and Level 2 Travel and Tourism courses at KS4 and KS5.

The department constantly seeks to achieve progress for all students across the ability range and strives to continue raising achievement. At KS3, students are taught in mixed ability groups and teaching time is between 3-4 hours per fortnight, depending on the year group. The KS3 course is reviewed each year and with the introduction of the new GCSE and A level specifications we are reviewing our KS3 to look at ensuring the best progression possible throughout the key stages. Geography is a very popular option at GCSE and we currently have 14 GCSE groups across Year 10 and 11.

A range of fieldwork activities are organised for each year group, including local enquiries, a visit to Grafham water and coastal fieldwork at Dunwich and Aldeburgh. Our Year 10 students have the opportunity to take part in an annual residential to Iceland at the end of Year 10.

Overall, this successful Geography department, within a large school, offers an ambitious teacher plenty of experience both in teaching, departmental responsibilities, and professional career development. We can assure the person appointed of a warm welcome both within the department and the school. We value highly those teachers who show that they really enjoy the subject and can communicate this effectively to students. The ability to form strong relationships with classes is essential, as well as a good sense of humour, a collegiate approach to working, and a positive 'can-do' nature. This job would suit a range of teachers at different career stages, including those seeking their first post, or those currently teaching Travel and Tourism or Geography who are seeking to broaden their experience and take advantage of opportunities in a large department and school with a strong reputation in humanities. The successful candidate will be teaching some BTEC Travel and Tourism (Level 1 – KS4 and Level 2 – KS5) and potentially some KS3 Geography. They must be committed to making a real contribution to maintaining the high standards that currently exist in the department to help support us in future successes.

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