

Geography Department

Geography is a popular option for boys in Years 10 and 11 who follow the Edexcel 'A' specification for GCSE. The course includes two days of compulsory fieldwork which is assessed by examination.

In the Sixth Form, students follow the Edexcel specification as a two-year linear course. The course includes an Independent Investigation for which students complete fieldwork in the summer between Years 12 and 13. Their research is designed and carried out as a fully independent exercise, with guidance from teachers at the planning stage. This independence prepares students well for study at university and allows them to investigate in greater depth the areas of the syllabus which they have found particularly interesting. On average there are sixty students across the two year groups, many of whom regularly go on to read Geography at university (including a number who have achieved offers of places at Oxbridge).

Fieldwork is a vital aspect of the curriculum and as a Department, we are committed to providing fieldwork experience as widely as possible. Year 7 students study the local area's Physical and Human Geography in two half-day outings and Year 8 complete Physical Geography fieldwork locally to support their understanding of ecosystems and environments. In Year 10, students carry out two days of compulsory fieldwork, one in an urban environment and another in a coastal environment. In Year 12, students undertake a variety of activities, including a week of fieldwork at a Field Study Centre (typically in Snowdonia).

The Geography Department consists of three specialist teachers; it is based on its own floor in the Atwell Building and includes three Geography teaching rooms, a smaller Key Stage 5 teaching room (including a Geography library) and a departmental office. All classrooms are equipped with computers, interactive whiteboards and projectors and the Department maintains a large stock of maps, photographs, journals, audio-visual aids and other resources which are regularly updated. The Geography Department is also in the process of installing a new school weather station which will aid the study of weather science and climatology across a number of different year groups. The close proximity of the rooms has aided the development of a strong degree of collaboration within the Department, which helps to make for a rewarding teaching experience in a friendly atmosphere.

The successful candidate will be expected to participate in all fieldwork activities, to contribute to curriculum development and to be prepared to teach both Physical and Human Geography at all levels including GCSE and A-level. In return, they will become part of a lively and supportive Department which is committed to delivering excellent teaching for enthusiastic and able young geographers.