



## **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, pupils are taught in mixed ability groups and receive one and a half lessons of geography per week in Year 7, and two lessons per week in Year 8. Pupils are assessed regularly using a variety of formative and summative assessment tasks.

Key Stage 4 begins in January in Year 9. Pupils that opt to study geography follow the Key Stage 3 curriculum until Christmas in Year 9, whilst students that have not selected the subject do not study it beyond Year 8. As a result, we have an interested and engaged Year 9 and an extended period of study to prepare for the GCSE course. Geography is a popular subject and we currently have five groups in Year 9, four groups in Year 10 and six groups in Year 11. Pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 receive five lessons of geography per fortnight.

We attach importance to the monitoring of pupil progress and to the use of intervention strategies, when and where appropriate. We strive to ensure that pupils 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 five 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.

We are currently preparing our third Year 11 cohort for GCSE examinations. 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 2019-20 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.