

# GEOGRAPHY AT WADDESDON

Geography is a popular and very successful subject at Waddesdon C of E School. The successful candidate will join a three person team of highly experienced subject specialists. There is a focus on developing excellence in teaching and learning to ensure that students both enjoy and achieve highly in Geography. Collaboration amongst the team is strong as we develop and share techniques and resources that help students learn. The subject is well resourced with a wide range of teaching and learning activities, text books, audio-visual resources and fieldwork equipment.

Results at both GCSE and A Level have been excellent for a number of years, in both attainment and progress, leading to a strong uptake at Key Stage 4 and 5. The successful candidate will be expected to teach all key stages to a high standard.



The department is highly committed to Continuing Professional Development and Learning (CPDL), using contemporary educational research to inform the curriculum and pedagogy.

This year, for example, we have used the research from cognitive science to embed retrieval practice across the curriculum and used the EEF's Metacognition Guidance Report to help students break down the longer questions at GCSE and A Level. The successful candidate will be supported and encouraged to trial and evaluate the impact of different teaching and learning techniques, to develop their pedagogy and practice.

At Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8), students are taught in mixed ability tutor groups. The KS3 curriculum covers a range of physical and human geography themes. The topics covered act as a solid foundation for further study at GCSE and A Level, with a strong department focus on retention of knowledge.

Year 7	Year 8
Knowledge of Places	Plate tectonics and hazards
Map skills	The Development Gap
Population and Migration	Climate Change
Weather and Climate	Globalisation

At GCSE, students are taught in mixed ability groups and follow the AQA specification. Taught over three years, Geography is a popular subject with approximately half of each year group (9, 10 & 11) opting for Geography at GCSE. Last year, with the first examinations under the new specifications, 85% of students achieved grade 9-4, with 48% achieving grades 9-7.

Physical Geography	The Challenge of Natural Hazards The Living World Physical landscapes in the UK
Human Geography	Urban Issues and Challenges The Changing Economic World The Challenge of Resource Management
Geographical skills	Maps, Graphs and Fieldwork

A Level is a similarly popular choice with approximately 25 students each year choosing the subject. Students follow the Edexcel A Level specification, covering a wide range of challenging but contemporary geographical topics. The Independent Investigation and Synoptic Paper are both excellent assessments of students' ability to read the world and "think like a geographer". Last year 46% of students achieved A\*-B grades and 85% achieved A\*-C grades. Each year 3 to 4 students go on to study Geography at university.

Year 12	Year 13
Tectonic Processes and Hazards	The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
Coastal Landscapes and Change	The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
Globalisation	Superpowers
Regenerating Places	Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Fieldwork provision is a key element of the Geography curriculum. At GCSE students undertake a local river study, as well as an urban investigation into the characteristics of contrasting urban areas in Oxford. At A Level, students investigate the impact of regeneration in Aylesbury and coastal management in Barton on Sea. Year 13 go on a residential fieldtrip to Devon to collect data for their Independent Investigations.

