

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

The geography department has an enthusiastic and committed team of teachers, Miss Niblett, Mrs Cullis, Mrs Bull and Mr Pearce. The department is dedicated to helping all pupils achieve their maximum potential, whatever their stage of education. We believe in a broad and balanced curriculum at all key stages and are keen to keep the subject a dynamic, relevant and popular one.

Fieldwork is an important aspect of geography at Balcarras and the pupils have access to fieldwork opportunities at all stages. A variety of day trips in the local area are run throughout Key stage 3. At GCSE, pupils go on an Urban studies trip to Bristol, and a rivers day to the Forest of Dean in preparation for their fieldwork assessment. We run an optional 3-day GCSE residential trip to Snowdonia or the Lake District. At A-level, we go on a residential trip to Dorset and run local fieldwork days. We also biannually organise a foreign residential trip; some locations in the past have included Italy, Iceland, and West coast of USA.

There is a dedicated teaching room equipped with 20 computers for use by the department. We are developing our use of GIS packages and the schools VLE to support our students at all stages.

Geography is a subject enjoyed within the lower school. Groups are set by ability in Year 8 and 9. Throughout Years 7 – 9, lessons are taught using a wide range of resources and the route to enquiry approach is a popular one. The geog. 1.2.3 and the KS3 Hodder series of textbooks are used to supplement this. We are particularly keen that our students become independent learners and this ethos is at the heart of the department. Our approach to KS3 is to make it enjoyable and challenging to enable students to engage with the subject and the world around them.

Years 10 and 11 study the AQA GCSE Geography syllabus. The subject is an extremely popular choice at GCSE with between 50 and 60 % of the year group choosing the subject year on year. We have consistently excellent progress 8 data (0.7 in 2019). The modules encompass many aspects of physical and human geography; with a focus towards combining traditional geographical concepts and skills whilst encouraging an appreciation of environmental sustainability, globalisation and cultural awareness.

Geography at A-level is an equally popular and successful subject. We achieved ALPS 3 in 2019. Students study the AQA syllabus where we teach; Population and the Environment, Global Governance, Changing places, Coasts, Natural Hazards and Water and Carbon. Our students choose their own NEA study which we support them with via some taught lessons. Each year several of our students complete the EPQ with a geography focus. Many of the current Year 13 students wish to pursue geography further at university and we wish them well.

We are looking for a highly motivated colleague who will lead what is already an experienced and successful team. Above all we are looking for an excellent classroom practitioner with a passion for geography and with strong leadership skills. We hope that you consider this as an opportunity to become part of a vibrant, supportive and forward-thinking department.