**DEPARTMENT INFORMATION**

In the Geography Department at Hinchley Wood School, we are progressive, creative and committed to achieving the very best from our students.  Examination results at all levels are well above national averages and are expected to continue on an upward trend.  In summer 2024, 94% of the Year 11 cohort achieved Grade 4+ with 58% at grade 7+.  A level Geography experienced similar success with 92% of students achieving A\* - C, and 42% achieving A\*-A.  The successful candidate will need to share our love of teaching Geography to our bright and capable students.

The department is well regarded with Geography being a very popular option subject at both GCSE and A level.  The team consists of five members of staff, all of whom have different specialisms and levels of teaching experience.  Lessons are taught in four dedicated, modern and spacious classrooms, all of which have interactive whiteboards with audio visual capability.  The department is also well resourced, with current media resources and subscriptions.

In Key Stage 3, all students are taught in mixed ability learning groups.  We build heavily on skills in Year 7, with a particular focus on mapping, before studying a broad range of more thematic Human and Physical Geography topics in Years 8 and 9.  All students are encouraged to share ideas and opinions but working independently is also well embedded in our practice.  Topics that students most enjoy are ‘Africa’, ‘Tectonic hazards’ and ‘China: an emerging economy’, and ‘Conflict’.  Opportunities for learning also extend beyond the classroom through field trips.

In Key Stage 4, students follow the Edexcel ‘A’ GCSE specification.  The GCSE classes are taught in mixed ability groups for 5 hours over the fortnight (operating on a 2 week timetable).  During the course, students attend two day trips to cover the compulsory fieldwork element of the new GCSE specification.  One day is spent carrying out an urban study in Birmingham, and the other day is spent investigating river processes along the River Tillingbourne in Dorking, Surrey.  Students also have the exciting opportunity to visit the ‘Land of Fire and Ice’ – Iceland.

In Key Stage 5, students also follow the Edexcel exam specification, studying topics such as ‘Globalisation and ‘Diverse Places’.  Students are given 8 hours of teaching time over the fortnight, with a significant expectation placed on independent study.  Students are also expected to attend fieldwork to help them prepare for their Non Examined Assessment (NEA).  This involves day visits to both Littlehampton and Battersea. In 2023, we were very excited to have ran our first A Level visit to the Azores and in 2025 to Norway. We are seeing more and more students choosing to go on to read Geography at degree level at universities including Exeter and Birmingham.