



Geography Department Information

An Introduction to the Department

The St Laurence Geography department is a successful and well-established department within the school. It has a long-standing history of consistently high uptake at both GCSE and A-Level usually consisting of at least four classes at GCSE and two at A-Level. The department is characterised by a commitment to working collaboratively and continuous improvement. Every lesson for each SoW is written and resourced and available to all. At present the department is comprised of a mix of Geography and Humanities teachers.

Teaching

- **KS3 :**

Our curriculum is driven by enthusiasm for the world around us; we believe that students learn best when they enjoy and are confident in their learning. At KS3, Geography is taught as a standalone subject which helps to fully prepare our students for the challenges of GCSE. We work hard to produce engaging, exciting lessons to mixed ability classes that will give our students the best possible chances for the future. We believe that students should have a purpose to learning and feel that they are doing something real and meaningful, with the aim of developing successful and confident global citizens.

- **KS4 :**

During KS4 students follow the Edexcel B specification with lessons continuing the ethos from Key Stage 3. Students have five one-hour lessons over the two-week timetable in order to grapple with the demands the specification entails. Fieldwork is an important element to the GCSE and we run two separate fieldtrips to accommodate this. The first focusses on investigating coastal management in Swanage and the other to nearby picturesque city of Bath to investigate urban quality of life.

- **Sixth Form :**

A-Level Geography is a successful subject. Split into human and physical Geography, the department follows the Edexcel specification and challenges students to engage with current and contemporary topics such as Migration, Identity and Sovereignty as well as the Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity. Again, fieldwork is an important aspect of the course with students having to complete four days of fieldwork to help them prepare for and complete their non-examined assessment. Two of these days are spent on the Jurassic Coast and in Bristol in Y12.

Learning Outside the Classroom – Enrichment Activities

We offer a range of enrichment trips and activities including an annual international fieldtrip which in the past years has visited the Bay of Naples and Iceland. This is in addition to the compulsory fieldwork offered at KS4 and 5. We include fieldwork around the school site and local area in KS3 to ensure students are gaining the skills they need.

Environment

The subject is taught in the Fitzmaurice building, primarily in a number of large classrooms which are well resourced learning environments. A plethora of textbooks are available to support lessons but these are not our focal point. Our team are collaborative workers and the wealth of resources available to our colleagues for use in planning lessons is wide ranging.