



THE LONDON ORATORY SCHOOL

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Geography to Key Stage 3

Geography is studied by all boys in Junior House (Key Stage 2) and by all boys in the First to Third Forms of the School (Key Stage 3). Geography at Key Stage 2 is taught by one of the Junior House teachers who has specific qualifications in Geography. All other teachers in the Department are expected to take Key Stage 3 classes. The scheme of work at Key Stage 3 is largely based on the geog.1.2 & .3 books with fieldwork in each year group.

Geography to GCSE

Geography is a popular option in Fourth and Fifth Form with about 100 pupils opting for the subject each year. In line with national trends the level of uptake in Geography has fluctuated over the last decade although there have always been sufficient numbers to maintain three teaching sets in both the 4th and 5th Form and we currently have 4 sets in the 4th Form. For each year group three of the sets from one option block are broadly banded according to ability while the other set is of mixed ability. The specification followed is Edexcel and all four teachers have a 4th Form class.

Geography to A Level

Geography is a popular choice at A-level. There are currently two A Level sets in both Upper and Lower Sixth, totalling 63 pupils. The Edexcel specification is followed with the option courses being Coasts and Regenerating Places, and fieldwork is at Slapton Ley during the L6th. The A2 course consists of the compulsory Water and Carbon cycles, with Superpowers and Health being the options. The teaching of the A Level work is currently shared amongst three qualified geographers. These are enthusiastic and experienced teachers who are permanent members of the Department and at A level there was 100% A*-C pass rate last year.

Fieldwork and trips:

In addition to the curriculum work at AS Level, some Sixth Form overseas visits have been run with trips to the USA and Morocco in recent years. At KS3 there is fieldwork for each year group. Field trips are a regular event for the Fourth Form with two day visits to either the Hengistbury Head, Dorset and Juniper Hall during the summer term.

Supplementary activities:

The Geography Society is run by students and has done well at either junior or senior school levels since its inception many years ago. In recent years we have welcomed speakers from universities to the school and the 6th Form are frequently taken to talks at the RGS. We usually enter pupils for the Young Geographer of the Year and have had successes here too.

Geography to University

Many pupils progress to read Geography at university and the Department has a strong tradition of preparing appropriate pupils for Oxford and Cambridge entrance in Geography.

Teaching resources:

First and Second Form pupils are taught in Form Rooms while 3rd Form classes will be in more varied teaching environments according to the size of the set. From GCSE onwards wherever possible, classes are held in the Department's specialist room or in adjacent rooms. The Department has a wide variety of resources and teaching materials which we all share. There are four fully equipped computer rooms which can be booked through the School Intranet. All Geography teachers are free to use these resources and are encouraged to contribute their own material and ideas to the Department.