

# THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT AT SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL



## The Geography Department

The aim of the Geography department is to develop each pupil's ability and skills so that they can understand, appreciate and are fascinated by Geography and its relevance to current issues. We aim to create an atmosphere where pupils are actively involved in lessons and wish to learn, so that they come to enjoy Geography. We want staff to enjoy teaching, so they give their very best.

## Staff

There are four members of the department who all teach Geography across each key stage. The department all work together as a team to plan schemes of work, to ensure good practice is shared and high standards maintained. The department is based in three purpose built modern rooms which are well-resourced and all have interactive whiteboards. We also benefit from having a spacious department office to work in.

## KS3

KS3 geography is taught in form groups and students have three lessons a fortnight.

## KS4

Geography is extremely popular at GCSE we currently have 91 studying geography in Year 10 and 96 in Year 11. Each year group is split into four mixed ability sets and they each receive five lessons of geography a fortnight. Students are encouraged to attend master-classes in Year 11 to support their studies.

We currently follow Edexcel A specification, where the topics studied include Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Management, Resource Management, Changing Cities, Changing Landscapes of the UK and Global Development. Students also complete two days of non-residential fieldwork, looking at coastal landscapes and changing urban environments. Results are consistently high; in the final year of the legacy GCSE (2017) 96% of students achieved grade A\* - C, with 60% achieving an A\* or A.

## KS5

At KS5 geography is a very popular option, we currently have 35 students following the A level course across years 12 and 13. We follow the AQA specification and teach the topics of [Water & carbon cycles](#), [Coastal systems & landscapes](#), [Hazards](#), [Global systems & global governance](#), [Changing places](#) and [Contemporary urban environments](#)

All students in Year 12 and 13 have nine lessons a fortnight and this is split between two teachers. The results for geography A-level are excellent; in 2017 we again had a 100% pass rate, with 69% of the legacy A level group of students achieving an A –C grade. In the first year of the new A level all students sat and passed the AS exam with 81% achieving A-C. In the current Year 13, 50% of students are intending to continue with Geography or a geographically related subject at degree level.

## Fieldwork

As a department we believe that fieldwork is very important in bringing geography alive. Years 7, 8, 10 and 11 all have the opportunity to participate in fieldwork. Year 12 spend 2 days studying at the Cranedale Centre in Yorkshire to learn fieldwork techniques in advance of planning their independent Non Examined Assessment project.

In July 2017 a very successful student trip to Iceland took place and this year, the department intend to follow this success with a trip to the Azores.