



Crompton House School Geography Department

The Geography Department at Crompton House CE School consists of a hard-working team of 6 teachers who are committed to providing a forward looking and challenging Geography education that is relevant to the needs of all of our students. We work closely together in an open, collaborative, and supportive way – not only in matters relating to curriculum development but also in setting and maintaining high standards with regard to academic achievement, pupil behaviour and pastoral care. Our students achieve results above national averages; for example, the GCSE Geography 9-4 pass rate last year was 78%.

The Geography Department has 4 specialist rooms equipped with interactive screens and share a general ICT room, with the possibility of hiring out ipads.

Geography is taught in lessons of 1-hour duration over a fifty-period fortnight. The curriculum is organised as follows:

KEY STAGE 3

Pupils in year 7- 9 follow Schemes of Work which have been developed in house, but which closely relate to the revised NC scheme of work. Development and improvement of these schemes is recognised as an on-going project. Students are placed into sets according to ability. In Y7 this relates to pupil performance in the Key Stage 2 national tests and CAT tests. The performance of pupils is reviewed throughout the Key Stage and set changes are made as appropriate during and at the end of the academic year. These set movements are based on pupil's performance in class, homework, and end of unit, end of year examinations as well as key assessments.

The Department is well-resourced, and investment has taken place in the purchase of new textbooks OUP – KS3 – Towards AQA Geography. It is hoped to invest more in Key Stage 3 resources to prepare students better for the new GCSE. Other resources used are the Geog.1,2,3 series. The geography area on the school's SharePoint is well resourced and utilised by pupils. Classcharts is used for setting attendance / behaviour and setting homework.

KEY STAGE 4

The Key Stage 4 course followed by our students is the AQA Specification. We follow a revised 2-year GCSE course. Students are placed in mixed ability groups (according to Option choice). Geography is the most popular options at GCSE. Presently there are 208 students in Y11, and 205 in Y10. The Department actively seeks to maintain & improve numbers, as competition between option subjects is intense. Students use the textbook – GCSE 9-1 Geography – AQA Oxford Core textbook and the Cambridge GCSE 9-1 textbook, for the duration of the course. Students have the opportunity to attend various lectures held by the Manchester Geographical Association at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Fieldwork is vital to the understanding of Geography and as a result students participate on a 4-day residential in Swanage, Dorset. The fieldwork write-up is in preparation for the paper 3 examination. An optional 5-day fieldtrip to Iceland takes place during the February half term where Y11 students extend their knowledge and understanding of Geography further.

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

We are pleased that a substantial number of students continue their study of Geography at Advanced level. For quite a number of years we have had a 100% pass rate at A Level. At present there are 18 students in Y13 and 22 in Y12. The Advanced level course followed is AQA. Two members of staff, one Physical Geographer and one Human Geographer, share each group. Sixth formers receive nine hours of Geography a fortnight, but independent study tasks are used to extend and stretch students' understanding. A large proportion of students study Geography or related subjects at university. The Department has strong links with local universities and students attend lectures and conferences to enhance their studies.

Fieldwork, as mentioned earlier, is a major strength of the Department. Two fieldtrips are organised, a day trip to Uppermill/ Hulme in preparation for the Changing Places topic takes place in Y12 and a residential fieldtrip to North Wales in preparation for the NEA takes place in early Y13.

Last year the department attained an ALPS grade of 5, 3 the previous year.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The department plays an active role in the Fairtrade and EcoSchool initiatives in school. Indeed, the department has 54 solar panels installed on the roof of the building. If you need any further information about the school or the Department then please do not hesitate to contact Mr Douglas, Head of Geography, Curriculum Team Leader for Humanities, at school, for an informal discussion.