

# **WOODKIRK HIGH SPECIALIST SCIENCE SCHOOL**

## **GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT**

### **OVERVIEW**

Geography is a relevant subject for every student at Woodkirk High School. We aim to teach students about the real issues facing the planet today in an engaging, thought provoking and challenging way, developing global knowledge, transferrable skills and moral questioning. We are thoroughly passionate about our subject's role in modern education in addition to achieving academic excellence for our students. We offer a variety of courses at all Key Stages which we believe make us an accessible, flexible and progressive department.

### **STAFF**

The department comprises four Geography specialists who teach across all Key Stages and abilities. There is a diverse and complementary mix of specialism's, expertise and experience in addition to full and part time teaching staff. The common denominator of all staff is their ethos for academic success, enthusiasm for the subject and commitment to the young people they work with.

Positions of responsibility include; Head of Department (and Key Stages 4 and 5); Head of Key Stage 3; and Teaching and learning Co-Coordinator.

### **THE DEPARTMENT**

The department is based in a Humanities block and has four specialist teaching rooms solely for Geography. The department is well resourced with ICT and has two laptop trolleys for students, interactive whiteboards, data projectors and wireless internet access.

### **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Key Stage 3 – from September 2010 this will be Year 7 and Year 8 only. Geography in Year 7 is taught in collaboration with the History Department under the umbrella of Humanities and incorporates Learning to Learn – which is an Alite scheme promoting good learning behaviours for life. Year 7 is taught in form groups whereas year 8 is taught in ability sets. The scheme of work in Year 8 is called “Around the World” and aims to deliver the new KS3 curriculum for Geography whilst giving an exciting overview of the geography of all seven continents. The scheme is heavily enquiry based and promotes independent learning.

Key Stage 4 – the Geography department delivers two courses; OCR Level 2 Travel and Tourism and GCSE Geography. In September 2009, a new GCSE Specification was adopted which is modular and with an emphasis on current geographical issues – AQA Specification B. The course includes fieldtrips including a visit to the Yorkshire Coast to study processes and management strategies.

Key Stage 5 – in September 2008, the department adopted the new Specification from the examination board AQA for their AS and A2 Geography course. The modular course is extremely popular and is heavily skills based which prepares students excellently for future employment and education. From September 2010 the department will be offering OCR level 3 Travel and Tourism, which will enable more students to personalise their learning choices at this Key Stage.