

CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL: GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Geography is taught as a discrete subject at Cardinal Newman Catholic School throughout all key stages. At Key Stage 3 it is compulsory, whilst at GCSE and A Level it remains a popular and successful option. The Geography department occupies half of the top floor of St. Mary's Building and comprises four classrooms and a Resources Room/Office. This provides workspaces for the departmental staff. There is another allocated room in Newnan College for Years 12 and 13.

Teaching and Learning is organised by mixed ability tutor groups in Key Stage 3 (12 forms per year group) and there is 'loose' setting at GCSE and A Level. Key Stage 3 classes follow exciting and engaging Schemes of Work written by the department. There are a variety of textbooks, teachers' support materials, on-line resources and assessments available within the department that meet the National Curriculum. At GCSE, students follow the WJEC (EDUQAS) 9-1 B GCSE specification and at A Level the AQA Specification.

The school and college operate a two-week timetable (Week A and Week B) covering 50 lessons. Geography receives a fair allocation of time (three lessons in Year 7 per fortnight, four lessons in Years 8 and 9 per fortnight, five lessons for GCSE per fortnight and nine lessons for A Level per fortnight). Lessons are 55-60 minutes in duration. The department is regarded as being well resourced. Each classroom has access to interactive whiteboards & PC and there is access to school ICT.

Fieldwork is undertaken locally, for example within the Hove/ Devil's Dyke area and to the Seven Sisters Country Park. At A-level departmental residential visits are organised to Southern Italy and Iceland, as well as day trips to Juniper Hall Field Studies Centre and the East End of London.

Geography is a highly organised, successful and visionary department within the school, achieving results above the school and national averages in all key stages. The department also has both local and national recognition and high regard. The department is a three times recipient of the Geographical Association Secondary Quality Mark at 'Centre of Excellence' level; is a national lead department for the Prince's Teaching Institute Geography; and the department is active within the local Brighton and Hove Geography network. In addition to this we were designated a Global Learning Expert Centre in 2013. Within the department there are two Chartered Geographers and recipients of the national 'Ordnance Survey Award' for recognising excellence in the teaching of Geography. The department is a member of both the Geographical Association and the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG).

It is our vision to be one of the outstanding Geography Departments in the country and we continually strive to improve learning and teaching, raise attainment, implement new initiatives and strive for rigour and excellence in everything we do.