



## ST IVO SCHOOL

### Details about the Geography Department

The Geography department is highly successful and has been judged 'outstanding' over the last 8 years both by Ofsted and internal departmental reviews. We have held the GA's Secondary Geography Quality mark for the last 3 years and are also a Centre of Excellence. We are also part of the Princes Teaching Institute schools programme and have been awarded the PTI mark for the last 4 years. Consequently, Geography is a very popular subject at all key stages and we also deliver BTEC Travel and Tourism Levels 1 and 2.

We are currently a team of seven committed and passionate Geographers, three of which have additional pastoral responsibilities in other areas of the school. The Geography department is very well resourced with the use of 6 large classrooms and two rooms for Sixth Form work, a small ICT suite and a dedicated resource area. All classrooms have a smartboard, and the use of new technologies in enhancing teaching and learning is a strength of the department. We have subscriptions to ArcGIS and Digimaps as well as other online resources. Our resources room is stocked with maps, photographs, past examination papers, DVD materials and class sets of textbooks. We also have a very 'well stocked' online area where digital resources created for lessons are shared by all staff. We also encourage online learning using Schoology courses to share resources and updates for our KS4 and KS5 classes. We have a department Twitter feed ([@StIvoGeography](https://twitter.com/StIvoGeography)) and Facebook page and as well as a GCSE blog [www.geobytesgcse.wordpress.com](http://www.geobytesgcse.wordpress.com) we have our own dedicated department website [www.geobytes.org.uk](http://www.geobytes.org.uk). Our department has a strong ethic of team work and mutual support and are prepared to go that extra mile, for example in delivering after-school revision sessions to exam groups.

A strong focus exists on the quality of teaching and learning. A key consequence has been the outstanding exam performance over many years across the key stages. GCSE results over the past few years have been in the range 67% to over 90% A\*-C with significant 'value-added' being achieved from large cohorts of mixed ability students and our A2 results have been above 87% A\*-C for the last five years. A five-year overview of our results can be found here <http://www.geobytes.org.uk/examresults.html>.

The department constantly seeks to achieve progress for all students across the ability range and strives to continue raising achievement. At KS3, students are taught in mixed ability groups and teaching time is between 3-4 hours per fortnight, depending on the year group. The KS3 course is reviewed each year and with the introduction of the new GCSE and A level specifications we are reviewing our KS3 to look at ensuring the best progression possible throughout the key stages. Geography is a very popular option at GCSE and we currently have 14 GCSE groups across Year 10 and 11. In Year 10 we are following the new AQA GCSE specification. Geography at AS/A level, is also a very popular subject. Usually there are approximately 30-40 Year 12/13 students and we are following the new OCR A level syllabus.

A range of fieldwork activities are organised for each year group, including local enquiries, a visit to Grafham water and coastal fieldwork at Dunwich and Aldeburgh. Our Year 10 students have the opportunity to take part in an annual residential to Iceland at the end of Year 10. AS and A2 students attend a residential field course in Snowdonia and undertake day visits, for example to London. Students at both KS4 and KS5 can also participate in a bi-annual international residential which in the past has included Kenya and South Africa and which we hope will be to the Western USA in 2018.

Overall, this successful Geography department, within a large school, offers an ambitious teacher plenty of experience both in teaching, departmental responsibilities, and professional career development. We can assure the person appointed of a warm welcome both within the department and the school. We value highly those teachers who show that they really enjoy the subject and can communicate this effectively to students. The ability to form strong relationships with classes is essential, as well as a good sense of humour, a collegiate approach to working, and a positive 'can-do' nature. This job would suit a range of geographers at different career stages, including those seeking their first post, or those currently teaching Geography who are seeking to broaden their experience and take advantage of opportunities in a large department and school with a strong reputation in humanities. The successful candidate will be teaching KS3 Geography in the first instance. They must be committed to making a real contribution to maintaining the high standards that currently exist in the department to help support us in future successes.

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