

Westcliff High School for Girls

Geography Department

Geography is a popular subject with good numbers of pupils choosing to continue their study of the subject both at GCSE and A Level. Students have to choose either Geography or History in Key Stage 4.

Outcomes 2017-2018

GCSE – 83% 7-9 (A*-A)

GCE A2 – 73% A*-B, 95% A* - C

The teaching team currently consists of three members of staff who can teach all key stages and two other members who can teach KS3, all experienced teachers. The School Direct scheme operates at Westcliff and the department has trained a number of trainees over recent years. The department also benefits from access to an admin assistant who deals with all trips across the school.

There are four classrooms dedicated to Geography teaching which have a good range of resources. All classrooms provide teacher access to a computer, data projector and interactive whiteboard. As well as the use of the main staffroom, the Geography department has the use of an office close to their teaching base.

At Key Stage 3 currently we teach pupils in Years 7 & 8 an adapted National Curriculum. Key Stage 3 at WHSG is accelerated, allowing more time in Key Stage 4. We have chosen to follow the AQA syllabi for both GCSE and A-level. Throughout our teaching we aim to engender an enthusiasm for our subject and an awareness of the dynamic interaction between people and environments in all pupils.

Throughout the time a pupil is studying Geography there is an emphasis on the need for fieldwork in order for the students to acquire and apply geographical skills, including map work, data collection and presentation techniques, with a particular emphasis on ICT. This is currently delivered through the following activities:

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| KS3 | School based map work, a microclimate investigation, and a joint activity day with the Science department. |
| KS4 | Fieldwork linked directly to the syllabus to Walton-on-the-Naze, Belfairs Woods and the Olympic Park. |
| KS5 | Minimum of 4 days fieldwork- Southend, Walton-on-the-Naze, Notting Hill and Bethnal Green. |

The teacher appointed should be enthusiastic about their subject, a team-player and be able to plan and teach all aspects of the syllabi. We would be particularly interested to hear from teachers who are confident at teaching Geography at A-Level.