

As a department, we strive to ensure that each student gains a sense of scholarship and curiosity, with an interest in places, using a range of teaching techniques and variety of topics. We aim to use literacy, graphicacy, cartography, numeracy, and visual stimulus to encourage students to ask questions about interests and cultures in a responsible manner and instil a passion for discovery and adventure. We use maps when appropriate to help students think spatially and at various scales. Students are encouraged to take pride in their work and show a high level of respect and kindness in all aspects of geography and throughout their time at IGS.

We believe that fieldwork is a key element of Geography. It enables students to gather, present and analyse information about the real world. This experiential learning allows students to be resilient and independent in their learning and put theory into practice. In turn, this encourages students to think laterally about current issues and alternative sustainable futures as a result. It is our passion and enthusiasm for the subject which drives the success of the department. Our goal is to help develop resilient global citizens who understand their own roles and responsibilities on a local, national and global scale, preparing students for next steps and careers.

Geography topics are at in an exciting stage of transition with a range of new topics that are underpinned by 6 core principles, 'People and Place', 'Human and Physical Processes', 'Sustainability', 'Interactions', 'Scale' and 'Development'. We ensure a balance of physical and human geography throughout year groups and are always looking to adapt learning with contemporary developments. Students have 4 lessons a cycle.

GCSE Geography is one of the most popular options at IGS. We follow the GCSE AQA specification. Paper 1 (Physical Geography) consists of; The challenge of natural hazards, The living world, and Physical landscapes in the UK (Rivers and Coasts). Paper 2 includes Urban issues and challenges, The changing economic world, and the Challenge of resource management. Paper 3 is comprised of geographical applications where students answer questions based off a pre-release paper and fieldwork that is conducted in Ilkley.

Uptake at A-Level is also high with four groups across Key Stage 5. We currently follow the AQA specification studying Coastal systems and landscapes, Changing places and Contemporary urban environments in Year 12. Followed by, Hazards, Water and carbon cycles and Global systems and governance in Year 13. Students are required to undertake and independent investigation. This must incorporate a significant element of fieldwork and can be based on either human or physical

geography. Students are taught the necessary skills during their visit to Crandale centre in North Yorkshire.