



# GREENHEAD COLLEGE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT



*AS Rivers and Glaciation  
Fieldwork:  
Ashes Hollow, Long Mynd,  
Preston Montford*

## WHAT IS THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT LIKE?

Each teacher in the Department intends to develop a relaxed working relationship with each student. Being valued as an individual, yet being challenged academically, allows the student's real potential to emerge. The Department is well resourced and well organised, encourages the development of your study skills, and will help you to take a lot of responsibility for your own learning. The success of this combination of enjoyment and hard work is shown in our results and Ofsted report.

*AS Trip to Iceland:  
Solheimajokull Glacial Snout*



*Gulfoss, Iceland*

*AS Fieldwork:  
Cwm Idwal, Snowdonia*



*Glaciation in Cwm Idwal,  
Snowdonia, North Wales*

## AQA GEOGRAPHY SPECIFICATION

We are pleased to be offering this new specification, as it is a great improvement on the syllabus we have been successfully teaching since 1993. The content has been decreased, allowing us to do a thorough job of teaching complex and interesting subjects, and we have a lot of excellent resources. The focus is on change in the world we live in, and we have selected options to teach that are our specialisms and enthusiasms. Students can either follow a one year course leading to AS Geography or a two year course leading to A-level Geography.

## AS GEOGRAPHY

This Advanced Subsidiary course is taught over one year and consists of modules one and two. They are described on the next page.

Find out more at: [www.greenhead.ac.uk](http://www.greenhead.ac.uk)

## SUBJECT CONTENT

### Module One

This wide reaching module covers all aspects of Geography from Physical to Environmental and then on to Human issues. We will be looking at hydrology and the influences of rivers on the landscape, before focussing on flood management issues. In addition, we will look at Glacial Environments, taking you from the past ice caps of Northern Britain to the present day glacial regions of Iceland, the Alps, Alaska and Antarctica.

As a balance to the Physical Geography, we will also study the core Human Geography topic of global population change, plus energy issues such as the pressing need to find alternative energy sources.

This module represents 70% of the AS course and is assessed through a two hour written exam.

### Module Two

This is an Applied Geography programme of study which involves practical-based skills such as research through fieldwork, cartography, GIS and ICT.

The module will be assessed through a one hour exam and represents 30% of the AS course.

### Fieldwork

Although there is no coursework in the AS or A2 Geography courses, we will carry out residential fieldwork in order to develop the skills necessary for Module Two (AS) and Module Four (A2). At present we visit Shropshire and North Wales.

## A2 GEOGRAPHY

Having taken the first two modules in the lower sixth year, the students then complete their A-level in the upper sixth by taking modules three and four. These make up the remaining 50% of the marks available.

### Module Three

Here you will study the dramatic effects of plate tectonics, researching earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and the hazardous environments they create for people. To broaden your knowledge of Geopolitics we will look at contemporary conflicts around the globe including the separatist pressures which have led to those problems. Finally, we will choose between studies of "ecosystems in danger" and "the evolution of world cities".

30% of the total A-level marks, assessed through a two hour written paper.



### Module Four

This is a Geographical Issue Evaluation which is designed to test a range of intellectual skills, knowledge and understanding. You will be taught how to establish criteria for decision-making and how to critically evaluate the possible consequences of that decision. A superb taste of the skills required to succeed on University courses and in employment.

20% of the total A-level marks, assessed through a 1 hour 30 minute written exam (pre-released information allows for preparation before the exam.)

### Overseas Fieldwork

Since 1998 we have run an optional field course in Iceland, in April of the AS-level course, which has proved to be very popular and successful.

## WHAT CAN I DO WITH A-LEVEL GEOGRAPHY?

About 95% of Geographers go on from Greenhead to University; 35% to do a degree in Geography or a related subject. Choose Geography because you enjoy it, and this will help you to maximise your success. It is the quality of your results, not the subjects taken, that will open the doors to the majority of degrees and employment opportunities.

Geographers acquire a wide range of skills, such as the ability to analyse data, to write a report or to understand the attitudes and values of decision makers; Geographers are good at networking and teamwork, and this Department is at the forefront of using ICT in learning and teaching. Examples of recent student careers are Environmental Science, Law, Media Studies, International Relations, Biochemistry, Parachute Regiment and Environmental Planning. Students gaining Geography degrees are matched only by those with Mathematics degrees in their employability.

## KEY SKILLS

The rich and varied nature of Geography's subject matter and methods will create many opportunities for Key Skills accreditation. At present we offer the whole of Key Skills Communication as part of the Key Skills portfolio.

## WHAT DO THE STUDENTS THINK?

We asked our students what they thought about Geography at Greenhead.....

"The field courses in Shropshire and Iceland were eye opening. The department has a positive, friendly and successful ethos. I've enjoyed every minute!"

"It's a good blend of theoretical and practical work."

"Field trips are fun! You get to play around in rivers and look at Geography in action."

"Hard work, but if you are prepared for that, you'll enjoy it."

"I like the relaxed atmosphere of classes because everyone has the chance to discuss work and to participate."