



The Geography Department

The Leys School Geography department is a well-established and forward-thinking department which attracts high numbers at GCSE and A Level (around 70% and 30% of the respective year groups). Colleagues are highly qualified, professional and supportive, working collaboratively with shared resources through Google Classroom to provide the best possible learning experience for pupils. The department has a strong academic ethos combined with a vibrancy of approach with teachers aiming for pupils to become well-informed and critical-thinking Geographers who understand the complexities of dynamic Earth systems and contemporary global challenges.

In Years 7-8, pupils investigate local and global challenges to establish a solid foundation of geographical understanding and skills. In Year 9 pupils begin to work towards Geography GCSE (AQA). Though there is a comparatively wide ability range, results have been outstanding with 79% of pupils achieving grades 7, 8 or 9 in 2023. Many pupils continue with Geography in Sixth Form where they follow the Edexcel A Level. The A level results are consistently excellent with 85% of the cohort achieving A*- B grades in 2023.

Field trips are vital to the study of Geography, providing pupils with the opportunity to carry out first-hand research through fieldwork and develop analytical and evaluative thinking. The department runs a programme of field trips with GCSE Geographers visiting Felixstowe beach and Olympic Park and Sixth Form going on a residential field trip to the Lake District.

The Geography department consists of three recently refurbished large classrooms, a Sixth Form teaching room and the department office where each teacher has a workspace. In addition, the foyer acts as an additional teaching and learning space where there are digital display screens and an augmented reality iSandbox for pupils to model landscape development. The Vision Studio is on the same floor which gives the opportunity enhance learning with the use of virtual reality headsets and is where the department's pupil-produced podcast 'GeogPod @ The Leys School' is recorded.

Geography Department Personnel

Mrs Charlotte Chatwin (Acting Head of Department January – August 2024, also Head of Sustainability)

Mr William Earl (Also Director of the Wider Curriculum)

Mr Jos Herbert (Also Assistant Housemaster in North A House)

Mrs Lisa North

Mr James Williams

Role Profile

In General

- To teach pupils within the school
- To create a well-ordered teaching environment in which pupils can thrive and explore their academic potential
- To have a clear knowledge of the individuals in their class and differentiate accordingly, including being aware of each pupil's individual learning needs
- To bear in mind the Christian ethos that underpins the life of the school community and bring its values into the classroom
- To plan lessons clearly and within the departmental scheme of work
- To mark work regularly and promptly, in line with departmental and school marking policies and to keep clear and full records of pupils' progress
- To insist upon high levels of behaviour and respect for others in the classroom
- To be a subject expert who regularly updates their knowledge to stay 'current' in their subject
- To assist with the day trip and residential field trip programme across all year groups on an annual basis as required
- To apply the necessary health and safety procedures when appropriate
- To adhere to and maintain School Policies and Procedures
- To take responsibility for safeguarding the pupils
- To carry out other associated duties as are reasonably assigned by the Headmaster

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications Knowledge Experience	Good honours degree in Geography or related subject Ability to teach Geography to A Level/Oxbridge Relevant teaching experience Experience of Geography fieldwork	PGCE, QTS or equivalent teaching qualification
Skills Abilities	Excellent teaching skills Ability to work on your own initiative and as part of a team Strong communication and inter-personal skills Ability to motivate and manage pupils Good working knowledge of ICT	Working knowledge of Digimap for Schools, Google Earth and ArcGIS
Personal Qualities	Capacity to be efficient and organised, flexible and adaptable The ability to work in a busy environment and meet deadlines Suitable to work with children Responsive to feedback and willing to provide feedback to others Ambition to develop teaching practice	A good sense of humour
Personal Commitment	Candidates should be willing and able to commit themselves actively to support the ethos of the school	

These attributes will be identified from your application form, references and interviews.