



Geography Department

"The study of geography is about more than just memorising places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of the world." Barack Obama



Welcome to the Geography Department. At Wood Green Academy our vision is to encourage students to think critically about the world around them and to help them make sense of an increasingly complex world. We believe that as a subject, Geography illuminates the past, explains the present and helps us to prepare for the future. We aim to empower students to describe and explain the human and physical environments around them, understand and assess global issues as well as explore different viewpoints and consider alternative perspectives.

All young people have the right to learn in Geography; they enjoy learning and form positive relationships with staff. Students should make progress and be supported to achieve their best in the subject and be provided with the knowledge and skills to explore the world around them and succeed both inside and outside of the classroom.

Our Department: At Wood Green Academy, the Geography Department is a highly motivated, driven team who are committed to ensuring all students make progress and enjoy their school experience. We are a strong, cohesive and supportive department who have a wealth of both Human and Physical geographical experience. As a department we are forward thinking and constantly aiming to improve teaching resources and pedagogy. We are a thriving department with consistently good uptake as an optional subject at GCSE and A level.

The Geography Department currently consists of 5 members of staff who are subject specialists with a broad range of teaching experience, including a Deputy Head Teacher and Year Leader (whole school). Our current department postholders include *Head of Geography, Key Stage 5 Leader, Key Stage 3 Leader*

Department Resources: The Geography Department is located on the ground floor of the Redgrave Block and has 5 teaching classrooms. The department is situated in the same building and all of the Geography classrooms are fully furnished with a range of resources to promote a positive environment and enhance teaching and learning. Staff have access to:

- An interactive board (to be connected to a staff laptop, which is provided)
- Subject specific resources such as atlases, class sets of revision guides and textbooks.
- Access to a printer, class sets of laptops and visualisers.
- AfL resources such as mini whiteboards
- A range of practical fieldwork equipment.
- Online subscriptions to eLearning tools such as Seneca Learning, National College and Office 365.

Curriculum and Examinations: Our curriculum enables students to describe, explain and understand the complex world around them whilst making connections between places and processes at a variety of scales from local to global. Students will have an awareness of human, physical and environmental issues and become empowered to question the world around them, seek knowledge and understanding whilst gaining a wide range of transferrable skills.

Students at Wood Green Academy have been following a two-year Key Stage 3 and a three-year Key Stage 4. However, we will be moving back to a three-year Key Stage 3 from September 2028.

Key Stage 3: *We are proud of our KS3 curriculum which has been collaboratively planned within the department. Students focus on UK geographical topics in Year 7 and global geographical topics in Year 8. The curriculum is enquiry based with students answering questions such as 'Why has the UK population doubled in 100 years?' and 'Why is the Democratic Republic of Congo so poor?'*

GCSE Geography: *Geography is a popular option subject, and the Edexcel B 9-1 specification is currently studied from Year 9 – 11 with examinations at the end of Year 11.*

A Level Geography: *Our A Level numbers are expanding, and the AQA specification is studied as a two-year linear course in Year 12 and 13. Students complete the core compulsory topics as well as Hazards for Paper 1 and Population and the Environment for Paper 2.*

The Geography Department is committed to quality teaching and enriching our students; encouraging them to enjoy learning as well as developing their culture capital. We firmly believe our students must achieve the very best outcomes and therefore we must provide the very best educational experiences for them. We aim to provide students with practical fieldwork experience where possible, for example there is two fieldtrips as part of the GCSE course and a residential as part of the A Level course.

Department Successes: In Summer 2026, the Geography Department achieved the following results:

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| • 57% grade 4+ in GCSE Geography | • 100% A* - E in A-Level Geography |
| • 47% grade 5+ in GCSE Geography | • 83% A* - C in A-Level Geography |
| • 14% grade 7+ in GCSE Geography | • 67% A*-B in A-Level Geography |

Support and CPD: Both the school and the department are committed to ensuring all staff have opportunities for professional development. In joining Wood Green Academy, you will be offered opportunities to participate in a range of CPD sessions to further enhance your teaching and to support professional development. We have dedicated CPD time every Wednesday afternoon for whole school training, departmental meetings and individual progression activities. These are based on whole school priorities and current educational research, such as supporting students' memory, recall and retention, improving vocabulary and developing students' character / learning traits.

A successful candidate will be well supported by a departmental coach and by postholders. Within the Geography Department, all staff have opportunities to lead projects, contribute to the evaluation of our curriculum and schemes of learning, as well as shadow, observe and take on tasks (for suitable candidates) to further their teaching practice and support professional development.

As a department, we continually strive to improve and support all students in achieving their best and we are proud to be part of Wood Green Academy. We look forward to being joined by likeminded professionals who are motivated, dedicated and passionate about the importance of Geography as a subject that is inspiring, relevant and accessible to all.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Miss Laura Veale

Head of Geography