



## Geography Department

The Geography Department plays an integral role in the academic life of Thornhill College across all Key Stages. The aim of the Geography Department is to provide stimulating and varied learning experiences that allow pupils to develop a real appreciation of the world around them by:

- Developing pupils' knowledge and understanding of people, places and physical processes in the world at a local, national and international scale.
- Providing students with the opportunity to develop their observational, practical, numerical, communication and ICT skills through the use of mapping technologies for example, GIS and Google Earth.
- Developing pupils' ability to present, analyse, interpret and evaluate information from primary and secondary sources reaching clear logical conclusions.
- Providing a range of issue based enquiries and fieldwork investigations to allow for experiential learning opportunities to support theoretical knowledge attained.
- Utilising a wide range of teaching and learning strategies (e.g. debating, role plays, group work and ICT) to nurture and stimulate lively and enquiring minds with an interest and enjoyment of Geography.
- Ensuring students achieve their individual potential by maintaining a supportive working environment with high expectations.
- Working as a team of five specialist teachers in a collaborative manner to foster a proactive approach to our students learning.

Across all key stages, pupils' progress is monitored on a regular basis through a range of: formative assessment techniques (such as observation, questioning, discussion, peer assessment, self assessment and standardised homework tasks) and summative assessment techniques (such as standardised end of unit tests and whole school examinations).

All pupils study Geography in Key Stage 3 and our KS3 programmes of study place a strong emphasis on the development and assessment of students thinking skills and personal capabilities, complimenting geographical knowledge and understanding attained across a range of environmental themes and global issues.

In addition to this, Geography remains a popular subject choice at both Key Stage 4 and 5 with pupils following the GCSE and A-Level specification of the CCEA examining body. Our students continue to achieve excellent results in these public examinations with performance consistently well above the N.I. girls' grammar school average. In the most recent CCEA Examination series in 2019, the Geography department results were excellent, achieving 44% at A\*-A, 83% at A\*-B and 100% at A\*-C. In 2017 one of our A-Level candidates was placed joint first in Northern Ireland by CCEA at A-level Geography.

### **Blended Learning**

The Geography department in tandem with the whole school community are committed to developing a blended approach to teaching and learning, given the current situation of teaching through a pandemic. To this end, the successful candidate will be required to be cognizant of the digital platforms currently used by Thornhill College. The Geography department uses Office 365, Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams for teaching and learning but many other emerging technologies are encouraged and welcomed for both staff and student enrichment. It is hoped that the successful candidate will be of assistance in helping the Geography department to further develop ICT as an integral part of the learning process for students.

*Thornhill College is committed to following Child Protection guidelines and procedures as prescribed by DENI and EA.  
(Please ensure that in your application form, you address the criteria mentioned in the job advertisement.)*