



# KING EDWARD VI HANDSWORTH SCHOOL

## Geography Department

### Staffing

Dr. Andrew Crampton	Head of Department
Miss Uzma Salim	Teacher of Geography
Mr. Barry Taylor	Teacher of Geography

Geography is taught as a separate subject from key stage 3 through to A Level.

### Examinations

Students study Edexcel at A Level

Students study OCR B at GCSE. With OCR B changing its specification this is likely to change to AQA from September 2025.

### Examination Results

It is compulsory for students to study at least one humanity at KS4 with many studying two. Approximately 85 students opt for Geography at GCSE each year. Results are excellent with a high proportion of students gaining 7 – 9. In 2024 at GCSE results 28% students gained a grade 9 and 89% grades 7-9. A Level Geography is a popular option at sixth form. There are currently 15 students studying Geography in year 12 and 12 students in year 13. Results at sixth form are also consistently excellent. In 2024 at A Level results 38% gained an A or A\* and 81% A\* - B.

### Fieldwork

Fieldwork is seen as an essential part of the curriculum. At Key Stages 4 students undertake one day of physical geography field work at Carding Mill Valley and one day of human geography field work in Birmingham. At key stage 5 all pupils participate in a residential field trip at the Cranedale Field Studies Council centre in Yorkshire. The field trips at Key Stages 4 and 5 are designed to meet the particular syllabus requirements of the GCSE and A Level specifications. The department also runs an optional sixth form trip to Sicily.



Students measuring Beach  
Profiles.

## Timetable

We operate a fortnightly timetable. Each class at KS3 has 3 x 50 minute lessons a fortnight. At KS 4 students have 5 x 50 minute lessons a fortnight, and at KS5 students have 11 x 50 minute lessons a fortnight.



## Accommodation

Most of the department's lessons are taught in two Geography classrooms that are situated near the departmental office. There is also a further shared classroom used for sixth form teaching. The teaching rooms are well equipped with projectors, interactive whiteboards, and visualisers. In addition to facilities in the Geography department, we have access to five bookable ICT suites each with 32 computers.

## Courses Taught

The KS3 schemes of work are designed to develop students' thinking skills and help prepare them for their future studies. Schemes of learning are developed around clear key curriculum constructs and designed to encourage deep learning and metacognition as well as delivering a geographical content. The diversity of the subject allows a varied curriculum that draws on a wide range of topics and encourages students to explore the world and make links with their local area. Topics taught include: Earthquakes and Volcanoes, Multicultural Birmingham, Rivers, Rainforests, Development, Global Fashion, and Glaciation.

At KS4 students currently study the OCR B syllabus. The curriculum includes units on: Global Hazards, Changing Climate, Distinctive Landscapes, Sustaining Ecosystems, Urban Futures, Dynamic Development, UK in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and Resource Reliance. It is likely that this will change in 2025 to the AQA specification.

At KS5 students study the Edexcel syllabus. The curriculum includes units on Tectonic Processes and Hazards, Coastal Landscapes and Change, Globalisation, Diverse Places, The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity, The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security, Superpowers, Migration, Identity and Sovereignty.

## Further Information

This is a forward thinking and innovative department committed to raising standards in teaching and learning. The successful candidate will be joining a hard-working department with strong option numbers and excellent examination results. It is hoped that the colleague who joins us will share our enthusiasm for the subject and inspire us with new ideas and initiatives.

A Crampton  
Head of Geography  
February 2025