

The Department

Geography at Freman College is a popular and very successful subject delivered by a well-qualified and high-profile department. There is a strongly collaborative and supportive approach within the department with all teachers contributing to, and benefiting from, the development of shared schemes and resources. This makes it a particularly welcoming environment for teachers who enjoy sharing best practice and working together.

Shared schemes and resources are available for all stages and regular shared planning, and standardising of work is conducted. Strong links with exam boards and a wealth of examining expertise inform the department's teaching and planning.

All members of the department teach across the age and ability range with A Level teaching forming a considerable proportion of each teacher's timetable.

The curriculum

Year 9

There are eight classes, each of which has three lessons of Geography per cycle. Two classes are made up of more able linguists, who take Latin. The remaining six classes are of mixed ability. Key Stage 3 is the remit of our middle schools and our focus in Year 9 is on developing the skills and content required for GCSE.

Key Stage 4

We usually have four or five teaching groups in each year which are all mixed ability. Each class has five lessons per cycle. All students follow the GCSE OCR B Geography course and results have been consistently good for many years both in terms of the percentage of students achieving top grades and also the proportion achieving or exceeding their upper quartile target grades. Students undertake two days of fieldwork at Walton on the Naze and in Buntingford to fulfil the requirements of the new GCSE specification.

Sixth Form

In both the Lower and Upper Sixth there are normally one or two groups studying Geography. At present we follow the OCR specification. A Level classes have eight or nine lessons per cycle, split between two teachers. Students undertake a three day residential field trip to prepare for their independent enquiry. Geography remains a popular A Level subject and has consistently strong results.

The department also delivers A Level Sociology which is similarly popular and successful. While there is no expectation that the successful candidate will teach this course, there is scope to do so if they wish.

Additional information

All full time teaching members of the department have their own teaching room. The department has its own trolley of 27 laptops with wireless connectivity. All rooms have a data projector. The department capitation is generous. The Geography Department runs additional trips to support student learning, including an annual Sixth Form trip to Iceland. The department also runs clubs, catch up sessions and revision workshops throughout the year. All members of the department contribute substantially to the wider life of the college.