

# Going Places with Geography: Report on June 25<sup>th</sup> 2010

Royal  
Geographical  
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Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

Over 250 Year 12 pupils from 56 schools in England attended our higher education and careers day at the RGS-IBG on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010. The event was organised by the **Geography Ambassador Project** and involved 24 workshops throughout the day on topics such as: how to submit a successful UCAS application, the different careers available in Geography and discussions with current students on life at university.

Speakers on higher education included **Russell Hitchings**, admissions tutor for the Geography Department at University College London, who opened the conference on '**How to apply for a Geography Degree**'. Amber Sorrell from the Learning and Leading Project gave advice on **fieldwork, gap years and apprenticeships** relating to Geography, whilst Kate Amis from RGS-IBG gave guidance on **selecting the right Geography course** at university.

One of the aims of the event was to highlight the wide range of careers available in relation to Geography. Professionals from a range of sectors discussed the opportunities available in Geography. Among them was Sandor Petroczi, a graduate from the University of Leicester who specialised in **Geographical Information Systems**. Sandor ran sessions to introduce GIS and highlight its significance in Geography at present. Lucy Gosling, a Flood Development Officer for the Environment Agency discussed with the students her career in **water and flood management**. Anup Patel, a graduate from London School of Economics who studied an MSc in **Project and Enterprise Management**, gave a presentation on how studying geography can help when applying for jobs in the **construction industry**. Dr Adam Read spoke about the advantages of working as a **Chartered Waste Manager**. He talked about waste management policy development, strategic decision-making, consultation, communication, behaviour change, procurement and training. Lydia Burdett, **Environmental Business Advisor** to a wide range of businesses in London enthused the sixth formers with her presentation about how studying Geography at university could give you the opportunity of a career working with businesses who wanted to find innovative ways to "go green". Rachael Bailey wowed sixth formers with an innovative and thought-provoking presentation on **Careers in Environmental Consultancy**.



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Rachel Prebble, **Learning Volunteer Programme Developer**, gave an insight into **Careers in Museums** and how Geography can lead to many exciting careers here in the UK and Abroad. **Teacher** Sarah Jones from Queen Elizabeth II Grammar School gave a talk on what it takes to be a **'Memorable Teacher'**.

Ed Dimmock from the **Environment Agency** provided a fun packed session on how he uses Geography in his job on a daily basis. Jessica Sellick, **Director of Rose Regeneration** gave a thoroughly informed session on **Careers in Economic Development**, while Amanda Edwards gave a presentation on her job as a **Climate Change Officer** and what careers were available in the field of climate change. For all the keen travellers who attended, Adrian Ferraro discussed what opportunities were available to people who wanted to pursue a **Career in Travel**. Charlotte Kenyon contributed to the travel career sessions by talking to the students about her job as an **Independent Management Consultant and Freelance Expedition Leader**.



Throughout the day 14 undergraduate Geography Ambassadors from geography departments across England provided **informal advice on life at university** through discussions in small groups, and gave presentations on their experiences of higher education and what it is like to study geography at university. These informal sessions were well received by the students who were able to put problems on their mind to current university students.

The students were asked to enter our 'Why I Love Geography Competition'. The students were asked to write down why they loved geography so much and received an I Love Geography pencil for taking part. Here are the best quotes from the day:

"I Love Geography because..."

*"Of how it links well with other subjects such as biology and chemistry. It has made me more aware of the world around me and the issues we face."*

*"Geography is life. It is the world around us, the air we breathe and the ground beneath our feet. Without geography we would be nowhere. We are Geography!"*

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*"It is a dynamic subject which is relevant to all aspects of society. I enjoy studying the relationship between us and the environment we live in."*



A huge **Thank You** to all our presenters for sharing their experiences and taking time out of busy working schedules to do so. Some of the feedback from the event included:

*'The workshops were all really good and have helped me with deciding what to do with my future.'*

*'It's been really interesting and I have learnt something in all the sessions.'*

*'My students have really benefited from this vital information in preparation for university.'*

We are pleased to confirm that we will be offering this event again next year. The date will be Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011. For further information please contact [ambassadors@rgs.org](mailto:ambassadors@rgs.org). Places for named year 12 delegates can be booked from January 2011.