

Dear Parent

Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the world's current problems boil down to geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them.

Global warming, sustainable food production, natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, the spread of disease, the reasons for migration and the future of energy resources are just some of the great challenges facing the next generation of geographers.

A knowledge of geography, instilled into me by two excellent teachers, has enriched my life and encouraged me to take on long and sometimes difficult journeys. Geography has stimulated my mind and given me the attitude to go out and see for myself, rather than be told by others.

Choosing geography at school can open the doors to a university degree, either specifically in geography or by combining geography with other A Levels to gain a place on a degree programme in another subject. An A Level in geography is recognised for its academic 'robustness' and, most importantly, it also helps young people into the world of work.

We know this is true because so many employers prize the knowledge and skills that studying geography can provide, be it knowing how the world works, planning research and report writing, working in a team, using new technologies and communication skills – and much more. You will find geographers working in a wide range of jobs, from the City to planning, working in the environment to travel and tourism, or in international charities or retail. As you can see overleaf, studying geography can help young people achieve careers that are professionally and financially rewarding and also enjoyable.

Last year I was delighted to hear that more than 230,000 pupils studied a GCSE or A Level in geography. So, alongside the other subjects that your son or daughter might study, I would encourage them to choose a GCSE or A Level in geography. It meant a lot to me and it could mean a lot to them.

With best wishes



Michael Palin, CBE  
President

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## Geography of GCSE

Geography is one of those lessons that make you realise how the world works and it gives you that grounding before you even begin to go places. It opens your eyes to things around you and gives you a look at how cultures work and how the world can be deadly as well as beautiful. Personally, geography's taught me to be aware that the world's constantly changing and being factual and precise can be as good as important as being imaginative. It's so inspiring and surrounds us in everyday life. This is why I think geography is so crucial to learn.

**Martin, Kent**



## Geography of University

I'm focusing hard on completing my dissertation as I'm in the final year of my university degree. My undergraduate course has been broad and challenging. It's also offered me plenty of opportunities to travel and improve my CV so I should be set up well for my career beyond university. Geography is at the centre of what's happening in our world and I challenge you to find a story in the newspaper which doesn't have geography in it!

**Sanjay, Hertfordshire**



## A graduate career

It was studying natural hazards at university in my geography degree that proved really relevant to my job as a flood risk officer for the Environment Agency. My work is to help evaluate the risk of flooding to new residential and business buildings. Today's new developments could be around for the next 100 years so we need to ensure they're sustainable and safe in terms of flood risk, and geography's at the heart of this.

**Lucy, East Anglia**



## with geography

## Geography of A Level

I've combined my A Level geography with biology, English and history. It's a good mix as it includes both arts and sciences and ensured flexibility for my future, although you can combine almost any subject to tie in with geography. So far I feel I'm a bit more of a physical geographer and a field trip to Iceland really brought my interest in glaciology to life. I'm now making my university choices - geography of course! - and then off it's off to work on a coral reef project as part of my gap year.

**Ant, Essex**

