

## **Oxford High School Geography Department Information**

The following brief details are provided to give applicants information about the school and some indication of the scope of the post. We recommend that you also look at our website.

### **Oxford High School**

Oxford High School is one of twenty-five schools administered by the Girls' Day School Trust (GDST). The school was founded in 1875 and moved to its present site in 1957. The GDST has its own bursary and scholarship scheme.

The school has enjoyed a national reputation throughout its long history. Academic standards and results are exceptional. We are justifiably proud of the school's academic achievements but equal emphasis is placed on participation in the performing arts, sport, charity and community work, and the development of social and leadership skills.

Oxford High School is located on three sites. There are approximately 850 pupils in the school which accepts girls aged 4 – 18 years. The Prep School is to be found on two sites; at 90 Woodstock Road and 1 Bardwell Road. There are approximately 270 children in the Prep School. The Senior School is at Belbroughton Road where approximately 470 girls (including 122 in the sixth form) aged 11 – 18, are educated. The school has its own admissions procedures.

Prep school girls generally transfer to the Senior School for the next phase of their education at Oxford High School. All girls are entered for GCSE and A2 Level examinations. In addition, many apply to Oxford and Cambridge Universities and around a quarter take up places. 100% of sixth formers go to university, generally the leading institutions, in the UK and in the USA.

Facilities on all three sites are excellent and resources are extensive. There is an indoor swimming pool at the Senior School, which provides swimming for the whole school and dedicated specialist areas, which are well resourced, attractive and well-maintained. Since July 2009 the senior School has undergone a major £9 million building programme to provide: School Hall, Dining Hall, Library, Drama Studio, Admin Centre, Lecture Theatre, Modern Languages Centre. Currently, a new Sixth Form and Art building is being constructed to improve facilities in these areas.

We provide excellent backup for all new staff with full induction and support. Our three common rooms are very friendly and welcoming.

Applicants are urged to familiarise themselves further by viewing our website <http://oxfordhigh.gdst.net/> to obtain a sense of the atmosphere of the school and the huge range of activities, events etc.

## Geography at Oxford High

The Geography Department at Oxford High School has a strong reputation amongst students, parents, staff and the wider community that has been established over many years. Geography is an extremely popular option subject with 4 classes in Year 9 and 3 classes in both Years 10 and 11 for GCSE. Our results are consistently high - in 2017 79% A\* and 98% A\*/A and last summer 78% 9/8 and 95% 9-7. At A Level we typically have one group in both Years 12 and 13 and the 5 year average achievement for grades A\*- B is 91.5%. Many students go on to pursue undergraduate Geography degrees at Russell Group universities (including Oxford and Cambridge).

The well-resourced department enables students to develop knowledge, skills and understanding from a broad range of both human and physical themes. We aim to provide a variety of teaching and learning experiences within a supportive and friendly atmosphere and hope to build upon and nurture our girls' natural interest in their place in the world.

The Geography Department consists of four teachers (one full time and 3 part time) and the teaching base is on the top floor of the main building. All rooms have data projectors and access to a class set of Chrome books. We work closely with colleagues from the History and RS departments and staff share an office on the same floor.

The Year 7 girls concentrate on local, small-scale themes linked to the UK like the OHS catchment area, the shopping area of Summertown and map skills. In Year 8 they expand both the spatial and temporal scales in units such as Coasts and Europe which lead very naturally on to the more complex and wider-reaching topics of our Year 9/GCSE transition year. Students start their GCSE at the start of Year 9, however, at the end of the year they are given the choice of continuing to GCSE or not. We follow the AQA 9 – 1 syllabus at GCSE and the AQA syllabus at A Level too. At A Level our chosen options are Coastal Systems and Landscapes, Population and Environment and Hazards.

Fieldwork forms an important part of what we do and where we reinforce class-based learning with experience in the field. Trips are designed to give the students the techniques and skills needed to conduct geographical enquiries and respond to exam-based questions as well as assessed investigations. We feel it is vital for each year group to have relevant and appropriate fieldwork and current visits include Henley River and Rowing Museum, Summertown, Rushall Organic Farm, Natural History Museum (London), Shotover Country Park, Jericho and London Docklands. There is a four and a half day residential to Slapton Ley FSC in Year 12 and a residential trip to Iceland every other year for Year 10 upwards.

The department enjoys offering students a wide variety of other activities – Oxfordshire Geographical Association lectures, competitions, quizzes and our termly Geography Film Night. We are current winners of the Oxfordshire GA Senior Worldwide Quiz and have the opportunity to host the competition in the Autumn Term.

We are a highly successful department and pride ourselves on our love of subject and our wish to inspire the geographers of the future.