



## Geography

This year has seen the teaching of the new Common Entrance Syllabus to Year 7 and the Year 8 seeing out the old one. The new emphasis on Case Studies has given us the opportunity to study diverse topics such as the floods of Boscastle and the impact of a company like GAP in globalisation. The subject continues to have a strong enquiry approach alongside the more factual learning, the huge wall map in room 15 helping the pupils with their Global Location knowledge.

Trips have been successful again this year. Year 7 enjoyed walking the flood defences of Robertsbridge, Year 8 had a great trip to Cumbria and many other trips and visits added value to our learning.

Examination results remain high. The scholarship season produced some 'A' grades and the CE results were generally pleasing.

Teaching within the department remains innovative and stimulating. A variety of styles is used to deliver the subject and the interactive whit board continues to be well resourced and has become an invaluable aid to teaching geography. The weather station should be

### Year 8 trip to the Lake District

In the planning for this year's trip two things were uppermost in my mind. 1. Who was going to do the cooking and 2. Who was going to be i/c washing up now that Docky T has left? I need not have worried about the former as Chef Rob volunteered to do the cooking but as to the latter... well, I was sure it would sort itself out once there.

With risk assessment firmly in my hand we set off for Cumbria on the annual post exam year 8 trip. Smartly dressed in the new Lake District shirts we made the journey without too many mishaps apart from one person sick just as we got past Hurst Green!

Gorge scrambling was the order on the first day and a refreshing activity it was too on the only warm day of the trip. Much fun was had scaling the waterfalls of Stickle Ghyll. In the evening of the first day more water activity was called for and we all went for a swim in Grasmere only a short walk from base.

With Rob's cooking to fuel us up we were set for the canoeing on Coniston Water and a brisk walk up to Goats Water on the slopes of The Old Man of Coniston. We didn't make Goats water as the weather closed in but this did not stop the fun and games on the lake.

Bow Fell has always been our goal on day 3 but the low cloud, rain and poor forecast forced us into plan D. Plans A, B and C all having been ruled out due to the poor weather. A low level hike around Lingmoor Fell to Dungeon Ghyll via Blea Tarn was a struggle for some but all emerged ready for lunch. A swim in the nearby river for the brave completed a tiring but enjoyable day.

The staff team had some new faces this year as Mrs Harmer and Dix joined us for the first time. Mrs Harmer is now an expert at finding the local doctor's surgery and hospital - a situation forced by the injury to Harry and by Buster soaking his plaster on his already broken arm. I hope the experience has not put her off.

What about the washing up? Rather to everyone's surprise it was ME that took up the challenge and aided by Mrs Dix we led the washing up crews in some hearty singing and cleaning. A song when you are working helps take your mind off the task.

Thank you to all the staff team without whom..... I hope the year 8 will be inspired to re visit the Lake District at some time in the future and I hope they take away happy memories of their last trip as a year group as they scatter to their different schools.

Mr N J Butcher

