



Dear Parent

As your son or daughter considers their subject choices for the next stage of their education, I would urge you to consider what Geography has to offer them.

Studying Geography helps us to better understand the world's people, places and environments, and the interactions between them. As a result, the subject has a central role to play in promoting sustainable development and improving our stewardship of natural resources. Indeed, Geography is the *only* subject that offers holistic study of pressing environmental concerns, with its unique position as a bridge between the arts and the sciences.

Geography is a hugely relevant and dynamic subject that puts the headlines into context, including those about migration across the Mediterranean Sea and the impacts of earthquakes in Nepal. Furthermore, the majority of today's most pressing challenges are studied by geographers: climate change, energy resources, land use conflicts, globalisation of industry and trade, inequalities between rich and poor, and natural disasters.

I loved studying Geography at school because it nurtured my curiosity about the planet and how it works. The subject provided a solid foundation for my varied and rewarding academic and broadcasting career, which in turn has offered incredibly exciting opportunities to travel to some of the most remote and fascinating places on the planet.

In addition, choosing Geography is a great way for young people to remain flexible and keep their options open, irrespective of whether they will go into further or higher education, or straight into a job. It offers both knowledge and skill development that will be valuable no matter what their future paths might be. Geography directly relates to careers in renewable energy, town and transport planning, environmental management, tourism, education, conservation, housing, social welfare and work in the charity sector. The skills gained during Geography courses, including data and map analysis and exposure to Geographical Information Systems (GIS), also link to careers in IT, administration and management, financial services, retail and marketing, research and industry. It is clear that Geography plays a role in making young people competitive in today's global jobs market.

Choosing Geography at school can also open the doors to a university degree, either specifically in Geography, or in combination with other subjects. Geography graduates have one of the highest rates of graduate employment due to their ability to research and synthesise data from a variety of sources, carry out practical fieldwork tasks, present balanced viewpoints, write reports, work effectively with new technologies and work independently, as well as collaborate in teams.

Alongside the other subjects that your son or daughter will study, I would strongly encourage them to choose Geography, not only to develop their ability to think critically about contemporary issues and acquire a wide range of transferable skills, but also to foster a lifelong curiosity about the world around them.

Best wishes,



Professor Iain Stewart
RSGS President