

Video Descriptions

Using GIS and LOtC To Explore Pupil Journeys to School (Teignmouth School)

Teignmouth Community College in Devon is an 11-18 comprehensive school with a flourishing and successful Geography department. The Geographers, supported by the Head teacher, have embraced the New Secondary Curriculum and have been very proactive in developing a topical, relevant and engaging KS3 programme of teaching and learning. In this video, the department is seen working with the Local Authority travel plan officer developing a unit of work that involves Year 8 students in investigating 'Journeys to School' by the students.

The Local Authority has taken all the travel mode data, incorporated it into their GIS system and made this available to all Devon schools. The Geography Department uses this GIS and local fieldwork to investigate travel modes and the challenges that students face when traveling to school. Students gather and analyse data from the GIS and their own fieldwork and then do a presentation detailing patterns of travel, travel hazards and possible solutions for safer travel. The results of the presentations are fed back to Local Authority engineers and action is taken where practical e.g. widening pavements. In this way, there is a real benefit to students and the school community from their work in Geography.

Connecting students from the local to the global: teaching the food crisis (King Edward VI)

In this lesson Paula Cooper, an experienced teacher and Chartered Geographer, shows how Geography explores real and relevant contemporary contexts. She teaches place, one of the underpinning concepts of geography, in the context of a topical issue; namely the food crisis.

Paula introduces the issue of the current global food crisis and how it affects the students personally by starting with a bag of shopping and examining how food prices have increased in the UK. She then looks at how the increase in food prices affects people in more distant places. The focus of the lesson is on Ethiopia and students increase their knowledge of place.

Paula provokes students with sharp questioning which allows them to make perceptive comments. She engages the students with quality resources enabling them the opportunity to develop their geographical thinking, to challenge stereotypes, and see an issue in the news through a geographical lens.

The Geography programmes of study encourage schools to examine geographical issues in the news. The reduction in prescribed content allows schools to allow time to include these in their schemes of work.

King Edward VI, Fiveways is a successful Grammar school in the suburbs of Birmingham. In 2008 100% of students gained 5+ A*-C GCSEs. The school has Specialist status in Humanities which is Geography led, supported by History. It has

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also been recognised as a Centre of Excellence by the Geographical Association's Secondary Geography Quality Mark. The Geography Department web site provides some excellent resources and information about the department.