



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL
Learning together Achieving together

PRESS RELEASE

Hampstead School awarded the Secondary Geography Quality Mark: in recognition of excellence in teaching and learning in geography

The Geographical Association (GA) is delighted to announce so far 51 schools were awarded the **Secondary Geography Quality Mark (SGQM) in September 2015**.

The SGQM award process encourages and supports schools to reflect on their work and strive for the highest quality in their teaching. All the award winners undergo a rigorous moderation process, and the team of assessors were hugely impressed by the manner in which all are continuing to embrace new and innovative approaches to teaching geography. The SGQM, now into its 9th year, recognises student attainment, progress and achievement in areas such as geographical knowledge, understanding, values, skills and concepts, and sets expectations about the quality of teaching in geography. It aims to promote effective subject leadership and management, helping subject leaders raise the standards of geography in their schools.

In 2015, 10 schools were also awarded the coveted **Centre of Excellence** status. These hubs of excellence are pivotal to the GA's desire to spread good practice through the development of local networks of teachers. The Centre of Excellence award recognises a school's contribution to disseminating quality approaches to the teaching of geography. In these schools geography is managed by enthusiastic curriculum leaders who are able to inspire their colleagues.

Over 371 SGQM awards have been presented since its launch in 2006, and with a total of 46 current Centres of Excellence there is an increasingly widespread support network for teachers. Furthermore, this year awards have also been granted to overseas schools in Germany, Vietnam and Hong Kong. Also, Barking Abbey Sports and Humanities College And The Minster School, Southwell achieved the award for a third consecutive time this year which GA feels is a significant achievement!

The 2015 the SGQM awardees are:

Secondary Geography Quality Mark (SGQM) schools with Centre of Excellence status:

Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, Altrincham, Cheshire
Barking Abbey School, Barking, Essex (3rd)
Bourne Grammar School, Bourne, Lincolnshire
Cedars Upper School, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire
Gateacre School, Liverpool
Ousedale School, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes
St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School, Brickhill, Bedfordshire
Talbot Heath School, Bournemouth, Dorset
The Minster School, Southwell, Notts (3rd)
Wilmington Grammar School, Dartford, Kent

Secondary Geography Quality Mark (SGQM) schools

Allerton Grange High School, Leeds, West Yorkshire
Beaumont Leys School, Leicester
Bentley Wood High School, Stanmore, Middlesex
Callington Community College, Callington, Cornwall
Chosen Hill School, Churchdown, Gloucester
Christ College , Finchley, London
Diss High School, Diss, Norfolk
Endon High School, Endon, Staffs
Frome College, Frome, Somerset
Gildrege House, Eastbourne, East Sussex
Hampstead School, Cricklewood, London
John Ruskin School, Coniston, Cumbria
Kings School, Gutersloh, Germany
Laurence Jackson School, Guisborough, Cleveland
Licensed Victuallers' School Ascot, Ascot, Berkshire
Manor School Sports College, Raunds , Northamptonshire
Mill Chase Academy, Bordon, Hampshire
Millais School, Horsham, West Sussex
Monks Dyke Tennyson College, Louth, Lincolnshire
Oasis Academy Oldham, Hollinwood, Oldham
Old Swinford Hospital School, Stourbridge, West Midlands
Perryfields High School, Oldbury, West Midlands
Rookwood School, Andover, Hants

Queen Elizabeth's School Barnet, Barnet, Herts
Sir William Stanier Community School, Crewe, Cheshire East
South Bromsgrove High School, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire
South Island School, Aberdeen, Hong Kong
St George's Academy, Sleaford, Lincolnshire
St Richard Reynolds Catholic College, Twickenham, Middlesex
Surbiton High School, Surbiton, Surrey
The British International School, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
The Cooper School, Bicester, Oxon
The King John School, Benfleet, Essex
The Priory Witham Academy, Lincoln, Lincolnshire
Therfield School, Leatherhead, Surrey
Thetford Academy, Thetford, Norfolk
Walton High, Walnut Tree, Milton Keynes
Weatherhead High School, Wallasey, Merseyside
Winstanley Sixth Form College, Wigan, Lancashire
Wirral Grammar School for Boys, Bebington, Wirral
Wolverhampton Girls High School, Wolverhampton, West Midlands
St Richards Gwyn CP School, Flint, Flintshire

Alan Kinder, Chief Executive of the GA, says:

'There has never been a more important time for all children and young people to study geography. Growing up in the 21st century means living in an increasingly interconnected world, one facing a growing number of global challenges such as climate change and the need to live our lives sustainably. Geography not only fascinates and inspires young people, it provides them with the knowledge and understanding they need to live in the modern world. Geography is, as we say in the GA's Manifesto, "fundamental to everyone" and I am delighted that a growing number of primary schools are teaching their students to fully engage with the subject.'

Jacques Szemalikowski, Head of Hampstead School says:

This is an excellent recognition of the importance and excellence of geography at Hampstead School. We are delighted to receive this award, that reflects our commitment to the subject right from Year7 through to A level.

The Secondary Geography Quality Mark awardees will be acknowledged at the 2016 GA Annual Conference held at University of Manchester from Thursday 7–Saturday 9 April 2016.

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Note to Editors

Summaries of the moderators' comments are available from the school.

Each school that has achieved the Secondary Geography Quality Award is actively working to raise the standards of geography teaching and learning for their students. Further information about the award can be accessed at

www.geography.org.uk/secondary/secondaryqualitymark/

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