

GEOGRAPHY

Is it not extraordinary that in a world where global GDP per head continues to rise that 1 in 5 of the world's population still live on less than a dollar a day? And are we investing too much time and resources into reducing our carbon footprint instead of looking at ways to adapt to the inevitable impact of global warming? Increasingly I find myself thinking about such issues and have come to the realisation that Geography now travels with me wherever I go. I have been fortunate to travel widely in recent years and on such occasions I find myself analysing the environment from a 'human' and 'physical' perspective. For example, on a visit to Dubai I was horrified to witness the environmental impact of dredging as a result of the Emirate's off-shore development programme. The economic benefits were self evident, sadly so were the impacts on the coral reef ecosystem that had been destroyed.

The attraction of Geography is that it is tangible, constantly evolving, and ever changing. It's relevance to the present cannot be overestimated and those privileged with the opportunity to research have a key role in informing future planning and action. For example, climate change, a topic that fascinates me, has been recognised by the UN as a greater threat to humanity than international terrorism. It is also the multi-disciplinary nature of the subject that appeals to me. The fact that one must consider the environmental, social, economic, political and cultural angles enables me to think more laterally and appreciate issues in a broader context. I am intrigued, by the fact that one subject can contain so many strands; the dynamic interaction and interdependence between humans and the natural environment, impacting on issues as diverse as globalisation, migration, disasters and ecosystems.

Fieldwork is an element which I have greatly enjoyed and which has transformed classroom theory into practical experience. It has also developed my wider skills such as team work and problem solving. Experiences have ranged from sand dune ecosystems and river systems to the study of urban regeneration in a district of Swansea, which I am currently investigating as part of my A2 studies. This has not only expanded my interest into the topic of regeneration of inner city areas, but has utilised my organisational, research, analytical, communication and data handling skills.

My study of History and English at A level and Music to AS level have complimented my study of Geography and reinforced my skills set. The study of source material in History and the analysis of texts in English have developed my analytical and evaluative skills in particular. The study of Music has allowed me to demonstrate the creative side of my personality and the performing elements, which I continue to enjoy in an extra-curricular capacity, have substantially developed my self-confidence.

Last year I was elected Deputy Head Girl of Greenhill School in recognition of my academic achievement and for the outstanding contribution I have made to the wider life of the school especially through music and sport. This involvement has developed my communication and interpersonal skills as well as providing an obvious sense of fulfilment. In my role as Deputy Head Girl I have a range of responsibilities including running the School Council and charity committee. My confident out-going personality results in regular requests to speak at a range of events. In contrast, I have developed a strong sense of empathy with younger pupils as a result of my leadership of a mentoring team for the past three years.

I am as yet undecided as to my future career but am conscious that a three year degree course will alert me to the various opportunities available to me. I am in no doubt as to the commitment required to succeed in my chosen discipline, but I have a passion and commitment to study Geography that will sustain me. I look forward to University with great anticipation and excitement!