

# Melanie Barker, Assistant Headteacher



Melanie Barker is an Assistant Headteacher at Highfields School in Matlock. Melanie was awarded CGeog (Teacher) status in 2006. Here's what she says about being a Chartered Geographer (Teacher)....

## **Why did you decide to apply to become a Chartered Geographer (Teacher)?**

I wanted to ensure that my subject-based teaching was recognised in amidst other aspects of my professional development – especially as my Assistant Headship role seemed to be taking me away from my subject.

## **How did you find the application process?**

To begin with the process was a bit daunting but once I'd set aside a few hours to write the statements and gather the evidence it was straightforward. The biggest challenge was getting my referees to complete the references for the Fellowship.

## **What sort of experience and activities did you include in your professional self evaluation report?**

I reflected on what I considered to be my achievements (e.g. creating and running fieldwork programmes) in my teaching as well as those that I have worked on outside the classroom e.g. working with student teachers and exam marking. I also included reference to those teacher networks I am involved in and awards that I have won.

## **How have you benefited personally from gaining the accreditation?**

Renewed confidence in my classroom performance and in leading subject-based professional development in my department.

## **How have your department and school benefited from you gaining the accreditation?**

I am encouraging my department to apply for CGeog status in the hope that over time it will be more widely recognised.

## **As the CGeog (Teacher) network grows, what would you like to see happen / be available to you?**

A network of teachers by region or county would be useful.

Guidance on applying for the Excellent Teacher status.

Opportunities to work with Initial Teacher Training institutes to deliver seminars on our personal areas of expertise to ITT students.

## **Any words of advice for aspiring Chartered Geographer (Teachers)?**

Take the time to complete the administrative procedures and then use the accreditation to ensure access to CPD and to be recognised as an 'excellent teacher' within your school.