

Lawrence Collins, Head of Geography

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Lawrence Collins is Head of Geography and Director of E Learning at Lincoln Minster School. He was awarded Chartered Geographer status in 2005. Here's what he says about being a Chartered Geographer (Teacher)....

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

It helps to formalise and bring together the many related CPD activities that I am involved in. This is particularly useful in an appraisal context and in raising my status as a Geography Teacher and the department in which I work.

How did you find the application process?

The application process is straight-forward but thorough. I was already a Fellow of the RGS-IBG and therefore I only needed to log my CPD related activities. Having the guidance and direction of an existing C.Geog was particularly helpful in ensuring the application was completed in full.

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

As an active member of my local Geographical Association branch, many of the activities were related to my experiences here – from organisation of the World Wise quiz to attendance at local meetings and conferences. Additional experiences were noted from formalised INSET courses as well as less formal work in school, including development of teaching and learning resources associated with new technologies such as GIS and Interactive Whiteboards. I am fortunate to work with an inspiring and dedicated colleague and collaborative work and joint authorship of articles allowed for further recording of CPD.

How have you benefited personally from gaining the accreditation?

In a (perceived) time of 'eroding professionalism' within teaching, I feel gaining C.Geog is some acknowledgement of the continuing importance of geography teaching in our schools. Certainly, it gives you a personal lift and buzz to be associated with so many other like-minded and dedicated professionals.

How has your department benefited from you gaining the accreditation?

Access to increased CPD events and opportunities and particularly, increased contact with other C.Geogs via conferences, e mail and face to face conversations

How have your senior management team responded to you gaining the accreditation?

Increased the profile and presence of the department within the school.

Very favourable response when viewed within the annual performance management system.

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

Increased opportunities to share good practice locally and be part of an expanding group of like-minded geographers.

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

With the announcement of additional funding for the Action Plan for Geography (APG2), there are so many more exciting opportunities to become involved in. Gaining C.Geog is one straight-forward way of ensuring that you don't miss out – indeed, being a C.Geog allows you to have a louder voice in helping to shape the future of our subject.