

# Paul Hunt, Head of Geography

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Paul Hunt is Head of Humanities at The Appleton School in Essex. In December 2006 he was one of the first teachers to be awarded Chartered Geographer status within the new Chartered Geographer (Teacher) strand (launched by the Action Plan for Geography). Here's what he says about being a Chartered Geographer (Teacher)....

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

I had become a Fellow of the RGS a couple of years ago and felt it was time to progress further.

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

At first I was a little unsure I had the right experience or evidence! However, when I actually sat down and took the time to think about what I do on a regular basis, I soon found the application process painless. It also helped that the staff of the RGS-IBG were on hand to help with any questions I had.

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

I included details of various department websites that I have developed recently. My previous school had started the Pilot GCSE and I have been developing a Podcast website for the students, where I explain homework, comment on TV shows and topical issues. I also included evidence of work I have done with our local primary schools, in developing a bridging unit for Year 6 students to do in the summer term. The unit is based on map skills, and is designed to be used on interactive whiteboards.

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

A sense of pride that what I do as a geographer has been recognised. My school congratulated me when I achieved the accreditation, as did friends and family. I am passionate about geography, and gaining the accreditation has given me a boost to continue to develop geography at our school and hopefully the wider area. I have also become a CGeog mentor and have found supporting the sharing of ideas between colleagues very helpful and useful in my day to day teaching.

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

The department's profile has been raised. I was able to use the accreditation in the Secondary Quality Mark award, which we were successful in gaining. We also offer the Pilot GCSE course, so as a department we are open to try new and exciting projects. As a result of the CGeog mentoring, our Year 7 students will be embarking on a joint project investigating their local geographies and sharing their views.

## **How have your Headteacher and senior management team responded to you gaining the accreditation?**

My previous Headteacher, Mr Stephenson, was very supportive in my application and subsequently open to ideas and suggestions that are related to the accreditation. As a school, our CPD is a portfolio based system, so it ties in nicely with the CPD log required for the accreditation.

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

I think local networks of CGeog teachers would be useful, where perhaps we could meet and discuss developing resources which are of relevance to our local area. Meeting other Chartered Geographers would be nice.

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

Go for it! Once the initial panic of getting the application together is over, you will find the experience rewarding and I have found provides a new focus for my CPD and teaching.