

Jonathan Powell, Deputy Headteacher



Jonathan Powell is Deputy Headteacher at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School in Lancashire. He was awarded Chartered Geographer (Teacher) status in 2007. He's what he has to say about becoming a Chartered Geographer....

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

I wanted to achieve a number of things:

1. Promote the subject of Geography in my school and in the wider community
2. Gain access to CPD opportunities
3. Network with fellow Geographers across the country
4. Recognise my work over the past few years as a Head of Dept/Faculty and AST.
5. Improve my chances of promotion as I applied for external vacancies

How did you find the application process?

It was relatively straightforward. This was because I had already been updating, my CV and CPD record. If not it would have taken longer. However, for the CGeog status to be prestigious, it needs to be rigorous. On the whole it was as time consuming as I would have expected.

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

Mentoring RQTs/NQTs. AST outreach at local schools. Gifted and talented work with local primary schools. Masters work looking at mentoring in Humanities; ICT in Geography; & Embedding CPD in my school. Developing the international dimension and applying for the DCSF/British Council International School Award.

How have you benefited personally from gaining the accreditation?

I have had the chance to focus in on specific aspects of my Geography teaching that I have wanted to develop. I have been able to tie these in with my performance management targets. I have been promoted to Deputy Head at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School in Lancashire, partly as a result of my commitment to my own CPD and desire to promote my subject and an international dimension.

How has your school benefited from you gaining the accreditation?

The school has benefited from the additional publicity (advert in the TES).

The Dept has begun to work more with other departments in the local area. I offered to host the Lincoln GA Quiz. This has helped to create more collaboration with local schools – including with other local CGeogs.

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

I received a congratulations letter. I spoke with SMT about the accreditation to explain it more fully. CGeog was mentioned in the references that were written for my successful job application for Clitheroe.

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

Further CPD opportunities, especially in aspects of GIS and using ICT in Geography. Further funding opportunities for expeditions, but also shorter study visits (this might also include opportunities to link with colleagues in foreign schools).

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

Going through the CGeog process is a very beneficial experience. It allows you to reflect on the work that you have done and are doing and allows you to think about where you want to develop next. It is an excellent CPD activity in its own right!