



Early Careers Geography Network

Developing and empowering early careers teachers

#ECGeogNetwork

AUGUST, 2020 | ISSUE 3

WELCOME TO #ECGeogNetwork

Hello!

Welcome to August's newsletter where we share the content for this month and upcoming opportunities and news. Our 'Geographer of the Month' for August is Becki Quigley. She has written an insightful and helpful article about working in international schools and the process of applying for jobs abroad. We are so thrilled to have her on board as an Ambassador too. Find lots of her resources on our Google Drive.

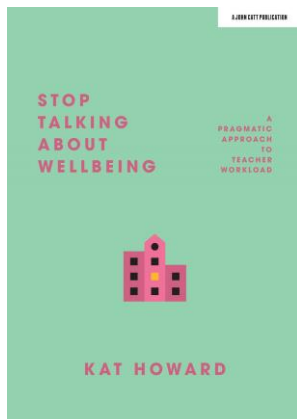
We hope you are enjoying your summer holidays and are looking forward to starting back in September. We will endeavour to help and support you as we all navigate this challenging time. However, for now, relax and enjoy your break. We all know you deserve it.

– Team #ECGeogNetwork



OTHER STORIES:

BOOK OF THE MONTH



COMING SOON

WORLD EVENTS

- 9TH August – International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 12TH August – International Youth Day
- 19TH August – World Humanitarian Day
- 2^{1ST} August – International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism
- 22ND August – International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
- 23RD August – International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its abolition.
- 29TH August – International Day against Nuclear Tests
- 30TH August – International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances



WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY



In next month's issue....

September's issue will focus on supporting our ITT/NQTs as they navigate the start of their time in schools during challenging times.



‘What to consider when teaching Abroad’

BY BECKI QUIGLEY (@QUIGLEYBECKI)

It is estimated that approximately 15,000 teachers leave the UK each year to join an international school. I became one of them in 2017 when I swapped my classroom in Doncaster for one slightly further afield in Dubai. I had never previously been to Dubai, I knew very little about the United Arab Emirates (Dubai is one of seven Emirates constituting the country of the UAE), and my geography of the Middle East was average at best. Yet when I was offered the job of teacher of geography at one of the leading British International schools in the UAE, something inside me told me I had to take it. And to this day, it is the best decision I have ever made in my life so far.

All teachers who make the move do so for their own very personal reasons. Often exhausted by their experiences in the UK, teachers complain of excessive workload, stress, a lack of work-life balance, funding cuts, the dread of Ofsted, an obsession with paperwork and hoop jumping, accountability, poor behaviour, high staff turnover...I could go on. For me, it wasn't so much a loss of faith in the British Educational system but more so the lure of being an expat teacher and the life that came with it.

For me it was quite simple: I wanted to work in a school that mirrored my own educational values, in a country that had sunshine and the sea nearby, and shops that stocked Yorkshire Tea! Dubai was my perfect match. I spend most breaktimes with a cup of Yorkshire's finest gazing out of my classroom window mesmerised by the gentle swell of the Arabian Gulf with the Burj Al Arab standing proud on the horizon.

It is during these moments of quiet solitude that I feel so incredibly grateful for my life in the Middle East, but it was no easy decision to make the move. What I hope to do in this little article for the ECG is offer my



humble musings on what you may want to think about if you are thinking about making the move yourself.

The School

The same rules apply when searching for domestic jobs. Is this school the school for you? Look on the school's website, their Instagram, twitter, facebook. Listen to their podcast, subscribe to their YouTube channel, stalk the colleagues on LinkedIn! Do whatever you can to picture the school and truly ask yourself whether you can see yourself as a member of staff

proudly displaying its crest on your lanyard. Try not to over think this, a school is very much like a life partner: I think you know within the first couple of moments if you have found a good match. So listen to your heart and trust your instinct.

The 'Package'

Most international schools will offer a 'package' which is likely to include a housing allowance, return annual flights, healthcare insurance, school fees for any children you may have etc. These packages vary considerably from country to country and from school to school. Do your research and do not jump at the first package you are offered. I

**FOR THE REST OF BECKI'S ARTICLE GO TO:
THE AUGUST NOTICEBOARD ON OUR WEBSITE :
EARLYGEOGNETWORK.COM**



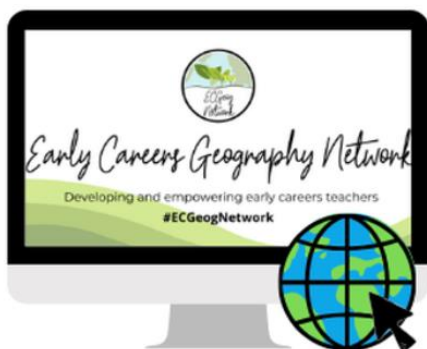
Nature Sightings:

August sees the beautiful South Pacific archipelago of Tonga become home to a rare sight. Pods of humpback whales migrate there from Antarctica between July and September each year to calve. This is vital for their survival as a species. Newly-born calves need warmer water to survive so Antarctica is not a suitable home to begin their lives. The warm waters and sheltered bays is the perfect place to give birth and raise their young.



#ECGeogNetwork's Resources to view:

HAVE YOU SEEN THESE RESOURCES ON OUR WEBSITE?



Websites to Follow



OTHER STORIES:

NEW AMBASSADOR ALERT:

Welcome to the team Hannah Steel (@GeogSteel). She is an NQT and a @routesjournal peer reviewer and a mum. She is an exceptional Geographer and we are so pleased to have her.

