‘Why does Antarctica matter?’

This is a national competition that Bolingbroke Geography students enter each year, and the question is set by the Royal Geographical Society (RGS).

The RGS wants you to think about why Antarctica is important and useful. You can think about this at a variety of different levels. You learned a lot about Antarctica in the Autumn term of Year 8 – use this knowledge and understanding to inform your writing.

You could focus on:
- Antarctica’s world leading science
- The continent’s unique biodiversity and landscapes
- As a location which still inspires people with awe and wonder of the natural world
- Antarctica’s unique status as the only continent in the world without countries
- Antarctica’s governance by the Antarctic Treaty which promotes science, peaceful purposes, sets aside territorial claims and prevents military activities

Using lots of geographical vocabulary will get you extra marks, and any independent research will make your entry stand out from the crowd. You should create your entry as an A3 or A4 annotated design or map. You can do it on the computer, or by hand.

RGS Success Criteria:

- Excellent attention to spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Use of accurate geographical terminology throughout
- Clearly labelled and appropriately acknowledged diagrams, graphs, maps and other data visualisation
- Accurate use of symbols, scales and keys, where appropriate
- Original and independently produced
- Describe two or more reasons why Antarctica matters
- Use two or more annotated diagrams, graphics or maps
- Have a conclusion that clearly outlines which reason you believe to be most important

Hand your entry in to your Geography teacher in your first Geography lesson after the summer holidays. All entries will be entered into a school competition, and prizes will be awarded for the best in a variety of categories, such as creativity, presentation and effort.

The best ten overall, judged against the success criteria, will be sent as Bolingbroke Academy’s entries into the Royal Geographical Society’s annual ‘Young Geographer of the Year’ competition. There is more information about the competition at http://www.rgs.org/OurWork/Schools/Competitions.htm