

Article News Longdendale High School

Antarctic adventures: GCSE Geography learners skype scientist Dr. Grant

Both Geography Year 10 classes had the opportunity to speak to Dr. Susie Grant via a video Skype session on Wednesday in Longdendale High School. This was to celebrate Antarctica week and enhance their understanding of the Antarctic ecosystem as well as the Antarctic Treaty.

Dr Grant is a marine biogeographer who works for the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and has travelled to Antarctica nine times on research expeditions.

Ms Grant shared with the learners what her research entails as well as how she travels to Antarctica. Amongst publishing a range of articles, Ms Grant has also published an atlas to map species in Antarctica.



Figure 1 By Laika from USA - Deep sea creatures, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=31724445>

Learners asked excellent questions and were listening attentively to Dr Grant. Aron asked, "What was the most interesting animal you have seen so far?". Dr Grant explained that the scariest animal she had seen was a Giant Antarctic Seaspider which was more than 30 centimeters long and the most fascinating animal was a Giant Woodlouse.

Dr Grant also shared that she has discovered a series of new species amongst the Crustaceans (crabs, lobsters, and shrimps) and explained to us how these species are named.

Learners were surprised to find out that new species are often named after friends or family members.

Longdendale Learners conducted themselves professionally throughout the conversation and received some special tips from Dr Grant on how to become a researcher themselves at the end of the session.