

Ruth Gibbs, a specialist in sustainable development and former Geography teacher, visited the Geography department to speak to the A level Geographers about her HIV/Aids research in Uganda, with a particular focus on the links between traditional healers and biomedical approaches to tackling HIV. Uganda had the first recorded case of HIV and in the 1980s was the worst affected country. However, it was also one of the first countries in Africa to tackle HIV and to talk openly about it.

The talk was very relevant to the Year 12 Geographers as they study global health issues as part of their AS human geography syllabus. This is an attractive option to those interested in studying medicine at University as it covers the distribution and spread of infectious diseases, diseases of affluence, roles of pharmaceutical companies and health care systems (such as the NHS). The Year 13 Geographers also found the talk useful for their A2 synoptic paper.

Ruth spent 2 months in Uganda running focus groups and workshops and spoke to the sixth formers about her research techniques, valuable for the AS skills paper, as well as giving specific information about the NGOs she worked with, effects of HIV and contrasting methods used to tackle the infectious disease.

We look forward to welcoming Ruth back to the Geography department in the future.

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