



A Level Geography

Within the Geography department we aim to establish a desire in students to want to know about our planet. Students are provided with key fundamental skills that enables them to critically evaluate their understanding of the diverse world they live in and how it is constantly changing. A variety of teaching and learning approaches are used to deliver an exciting and relevant course which allows students to study both physical and human themes and investigate the links between them. Students are encouraged to develop their teamwork, presentation and discussion skills in all topics. Our teaching will encourage the development and refinement of key evaluative and analytical skills; acquiring knowledge, developing an argument, extended writing, evaluating source and recognition of how, where and why opinions differ.

In our changing world nothing changes more than geography – Pearl S. Buck

What will students learn?

A popular and successful course which builds on students' experiences from GCSE, with many who have studied it recently going onto University to further their study. The exam board followed is the same as GCSE so themes and assessment style are similar, aiding student understanding. Through the two years of the course students study a wide range of geographical topics with a clear focus on synopticity across the themes.

Paper 1: Physical Geography

Water and Carbon Cycles
Coastal System and Landscapes
Hazards

Paper 2: Human Geography

Changing Places
Global Systems and Governance
Population and the Environment

How is it assessed?

Two equally weighted exams will provide 80% of the marks divided equally between Physical and Human topics. Each exam is 2 hours 30 mins.

In addition, a piece of coursework will also be submitted accounting for 20% of the total A Level mark. Fieldwork allows for students to research and investigate an area of their own choosing in completing the Individual Investigation, a Non Examined Assessment (NEA).

Applicable Life Skills

When students finish studying geography, they have the relevant world knowledge to allow them to make valuable, considered decisions about how to live their lives and the impact they will have on others and the environment. Hopefully linking this to thoughts of living within a sustainable way so that the future of our planet is in safe hands.

WHY STUDY THIS SUBJECT?

Geography is a broad and dynamic subject that is firmly grounded in the real world. It helps to explain the similarities and differences between spaces and places across a variety of scales and perspectives. Geography inspires students to examine key local, national and global issues appreciating our shared responsibility as citizens of an increasingly interconnected world. If you have a keen interest in the world around you and its ever-changing characteristics then this could be the subject for you.

Useful websites/Future Career Opportunities

Wider reading and keeping up to date with current geographical issues in the news is encouraged.

Useful websites include:

<http://www.geographyinthenews.rgs.org/>

<http://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-podcasts/>

As a degree subject, geography is highly respected by employers. Geography graduates have one of the highest rates of graduate employment, pursuing a wide range of career paths. It's often said that there is no such thing as a geography job; rather there are multiple jobs that geographers do. Further details on careers can be found on the Royal Geographical Society website: <https://www.rgs.org/geography/choose-geography/careers/employability/>

Examples include: Development Officer; Cartographer; GIS Specialist; Climatologist; Human Rights Officer; Disaster Response Coordinator; Environmental Manager.

Matriculation Requirements

In addition to the Sixth Form matriculation requirements, students must have a GCSE grade 6 or above in Geography. Students learn how to apply statistical tests and therefore confidence in Mathematics is also necessary.

It is impossible to understand history, international politics, the world economy, religions, philosophy, or 'patterns of culture' without taking geography into account. Kenneth C. Davis