

Geography

Statement of Intent

Geography is the study of physical processes and human interactions and the management of the physical and human worlds.

The Geography department aims to inspire in students a sense of wonder in the world around them. We build and expand their personal experiences of the natural and human environments and introduce them to concepts that may be entirely new. We develop an awareness of the connections between people and places and make connections with virtually every other subject on the curriculum.

We aspire to develop students who are proud of their local area and confident about their place in the world. By studying geography, students are able to recognise the responsibilities they have in relation to other people, the environment, and the long-term sustainability of the planet.

Successful Geography students can make sense of a complex and changing world and their place in it. Our lessons equip students with skills for the future. Qualifications in our subject are well regarded by employers and providers of higher education. Geographical skills combined with a knowledge and understanding of the world around us lead to a diverse range of career options.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Students are taught Geography for 2 lessons a week. Homework will be set once a week. We will cover 6 broad topics per year. The majority are thematic (e.g. Ecosystems, Development, Conflict) but sometimes we take a regional approach (e.g. Italy). There is a balance of Physical and Human Geography through Key Stage 3.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

We deliver the AQA GCSE Geography course. During their 3 lessons per week, students work towards 3 exam papers which are taken at the end of Year 11. The content for Paper 1, "Living with the Physical Environment," is completed in Year 10. Units for Paper 2, "Challenges in the Human Environment," are covered in Year 11. The skills required for Paper 3, "Geographical Applications," are acquired throughout the course. Fieldtrips are taken in Years 10 and 11 which also prepare for students for Paper 3.

Key Stage 5 Curriculum

We deliver the Edexcel A Level Geography course. Students will have 5 lessons per week, split between 2 members of staff. They will prepare for 4 papers: Physical and Human Geography, a Synoptic paper which analyses connections between different aspects of the subject and an Independent Investigation based on fieldwork.

Extended Learning

What we offer to extend the learning of our students

The Geography department aims to open students' eyes to all that the world has to offer, from the local area to distant continents. Teaching and homework assignments will draw on a wide range of resources in order to bring the subject to life.

Year 7 students will develop key Geographical skills throughout the year, both in the classroom and by venturing into the local area. We may also invite visitors to school, for example rainforest rangers bringing animals to present to students. Competitions based on various aspects of the Key Stage 3 course may also

be run. At GCSE, students will undertake Physical and Human fieldwork. This may involve visiting a river in Surrey to study its journey from source to mouth and travelling to East London to observe and evaluate the impacts of urban regeneration around Stratford. A Level students will conduct more extensive fieldwork. In recent years this has involved spending a week in Somerset, focusing mainly on coastal Geography, and conducting research for their Independent Investigations.

What can parents do to support extended learning in this subject

The most important way that a parent can support their child's learning in Geography is simply by encouraging curiosity in the world around them. Point out places of interest when out and about or on holiday. If possible, allow your child to help plan family days out, for example by using maps to work out routes. Discuss the origins of things they already show interest in e.g. food, cars, footballers etc... Have conversations about current affairs – the Geography curriculum will make reference to virtually everything which comes up in the news at one point or another. Those students who are already familiar with the stories will have gained a major advantage.