

Department Title:

Geography

Department Vision:

The Geography department aims to motivate and involve students in world issues both in their immediate vicinity and globally. Geographers are charged with the task of viewing the world through two lenses: one being geophysical—studying the topography and physical landscape of our angry earth and the other being socio-economic—learning about the intrinsic importance of society and understanding how economic change can shape our lives. Topics are widely diverse, including the Antarctic, Development, Resource Management and Hot Deserts. Issues such as inequality, globalisation and urbanisation are discussed in the hope that students better understand the need for collective, global citizenry to preserve our beautiful planet. At every Key Stage we also use GIS to promote IT in the subject and to weave core skills into the fabric of our curriculum.

Year 7:

Students begin their Geography learning about what Geography actually is and its versatility. A distinction is made between Human and Physical Geography and each unit alternates between the two. The topics studied this year are:

- Population Explosion and Coral Reefs
- Impossible Places and Mapping Crime
- The Rise of China and Raging Rivers

Year 8:

In Year 8 students continue to experience a great array of subjects under the umbrella of Geography. These subjects include:

- Tourism and Rainforests
- Crazy Coasts and India
- The Polar Regions and the Geography of Africa

Year 9:

In the build up to the GCSE course in year 10 a number of thought provoking units are offered. These topics are designed to capture the imagination of our students and promote the subject:

- The Geography of Sport
- Plate Tectonics
- The Geography of Conflict

Year 10:

The new AQA syllabus covers both Human and Physical Geography, in which the contemporary relevance of the curriculum is unparalleled. The new specification (teaching from 2016) incorporates statistical mathematics with a sound base in UK Geography and stimulating case studies ranging from Swanage in Dorset to Lagos, Nigeria. In Geography we run a 2 year course culminating in 3 AQA exams. There is no coursework however students go out into the field for 2 separate days to complete an assignment. This, alongside their Issue Evaluation paper, is assessed in the exam hall. To open their eyes and widen horizons the Geography department also runs a biannual trip for Key Stage 4 students to Iceland to study tectonic features. It is a very popular trip to 'the land of fire and ice'.