

GEOGRAPHY

The Geography course provides the opportunity to understand and solve some of the most important issues and problems that are facing our world today. In Years 10 and 11, it builds on the skills, concepts and knowledge gained in Years 7 to 9.

The course we follow concentrates on decision-making and enquiry-based learning. Pupils learn to handle a range of data, including maps, graphs, tables of statistics, photographs and videos. The intellectual skills developed through this include interpretation, critical analysis and evaluation of evidence.

Practical skills of observation and data collection are developed through fieldwork. Our fieldwork varies depending on the fieldwork aims that are set externally each year by the examination board. Fieldwork is embedded into the course and pupils' own experiences of fieldwork is examined in Paper 3. Examples of fieldwork our pupils have done in recent years include: investigating river processes at Dovedale, tourism in the Peak District, sustainability in London, coastal processes at the Holderness Coast in East Yorkshire, flood management on the River Severn in Shrewsbury, urban redevelopment in Birmingham and inequality in Nottingham.

Geography is a broad-based academic subject which will open options for you in your future. Employers and universities see Geography as a robust academic subject rich in skills, knowledge and understanding. As a subject linking the arts and the sciences, it is highly flexible in terms of what you can combine it with. The Geography course at GCSE strongly develops pupils' thinking and problem-solving skills, and prepares them thoroughly for a wide range of future careers including engineering, town planning, jobs in tourism, marketing, law, accountancy and environmental management, to name but a few.

The course will also help to create an informed concern about our surroundings and the factors which influence change, as well as an appreciation of the diversity of cultural, economic and political viewpoints. The three themes of the specification are:

| Theme 1 | Theme 2 | Theme 3 |
|--|---|---|
| Changing Places – Changing Economies | Changing Environments | Environmental Challenges |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urbanisation in global cities • Urban and rural change in the UK, including sustainable living, shopping and leisure in Derby and London • Global perspectives on development, including how the UK is linked to the rest of the world through trade and culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaping the landscape – coasts and coastal management, including the impacts of climate change on coastal communities • Shaping the landscape – rivers and river management • Weather and climate • Climate change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How ecosystems work • Ecosystems under threat, including the Amazon Rainforest and savannah grasslands • Water resources and management • Desertification – the impacts of spreading deserts |

Assessment

Specification and examination board: Eduqas B

| Examination | | |
|-------------|---|------|
| Paper | Description | Mark |
| 1 | Structured data response questions on Themes 1, 2 and 3 | 40% |
| 2 | Problem Solving Geography | 30% |
| 3 | Applied Fieldwork Enquiry | 30% |

In the final examination, candidates will be entered for a single tiered paper (grades 1 – 9). The department has had excellent results over several years.

| | % achieved in Geography at West Park in 2023 | % achieved in Geography at all UK schools |
|-----------|--|---|
| Grade 4-9 | 75.16% | 64.80% |
| Grade 5-9 | 59.24% | 51.90% |
| Grade 7-9 | 29.30% | 24.50% |



The slum town of Dharavi in Mumbai, India. Home to 1 million people. How can their quality of life be improved?



Coastal erosion on the Holderness coast in East Yorkshire. How do we choose which parts of the coast to save?



The Grand Carajas iron ore mine in the heart of the Amazon rainforest in Brazil. Is the Brazilian economy or environment more important?

A recent Institute for Fiscal Studies report *“placed Geography among the top subjects for graduate earnings.”* Source: Royal Geographic Society 2023

“The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It’s about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it’s about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.” Barack Obama, 44th US president

“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future.”
(Michael Palin: Comedian, Actor, Travel Writer, Television Presenter)

Please contact Mr Middleton or your child’s Geography teacher if you would like further guidance.