

Subject: Geography

Subject Leader: Mrs C Underwood

Subject teachers: C Underwood, K Burndred

Department aims:

The geography department aims to provide a modern and engaging learning experience for our students, promoting enquiry based learning and a passion for understanding the world around us. Students are provided with a balanced curriculum that helps them to understand why places are like they are, how us and others affect them and what we can do to preserve them into the future. Students' independent learning skills, creativity and qualities of resilience and commitment are developed through a range of varied teaching and learning activities.

KS3

Throughout KS3, students will study a varied range of topical issues:

Year 7: the production of chocolate and how Fairtrade can improve quality of life; Fantastic Places of the world, and how we can respect these; a look back at the events and regeneration of Rio de Janeiro through the Olympics in 2016; OS map skills such as grid references, scale and distance, and describing routes, and the literacy skills of report and creative writing.

Year 8: Changing China, a study of urbanization and its impacts; the causes and impacts of extreme weather; development within Africa; causes, impacts and management of earthquakes, and a study of our city, Stoke-on-Trent.

Y9: a study of India and its issues; 'Is the future sussed?', issues around sustainability; the world's awe inspiring and impossible places, and 'For Richer, for Poorer', a study of world inequality.

KS4

Year 11 students follow AQA syllabus A and study the following units: Physical- The Restless Earth, Living World, The Coastal Zone; Human- Population Change, Changing Urban Environments and Tourism. Case studies include volcanic eruptions at Mt St Helens, the Indonesian Tsunami of 2004, the regeneration of Liverpool CBD and how the Galapagos Islands are an example of an ecosystem destination. The link to the website can be followed for access to a full specification, past papers and exam mark schemes.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-a-9030>

The topic for controlled assessment is tourism. Fieldwork remains an integral part of student learning and fieldtrips are made available to all students studying geography.

Year 10 students follow the new AQA syllabus which includes the following units:

Living with the Physical Environment: the Physical Geography of the British Isles; hot deserts; river and coastal landscape

Challenges in the Human Environment: Urban issues and challenges; the changing economic world; the challenge of resource management (energy); geographical skills

Geographical applications: this consists of an 'issue evaluation', fieldwork and geographical skills

How can I help support my child's learning in Geography?

The key difference a parent can make is to support their child's independent learning. Homework is set weekly at KS4 and fortnightly at KS3. All KS4 tasks can be found in your child's homework book (they have a half termly programme), and at KS3 on the Gateway link, which pupils also copy into their planner during the lesson.

A great general tip is also to read a good quality newspaper weekly, they are full of Geography!

Useful websites

<http://www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk/>

<http://www.geography.org.uk/>

<http://nationalgeographic.org/education/teaching-resources/#>

<http://www.rgs.org/HomePage.htm>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zkw76sg>

<http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/geography>