

Geography at SHS

Department on a page

The Geography Department

The aim of the Geography department is to develop each pupil's ability and skills so that they can understand, appreciate and are fascinated by Geography and its relevance to current issues. We aim to create an atmosphere where pupils are actively involved in lessons and wish to learn, so that they come to enjoy Geography. We want staff to enjoy teaching, so they give their very best.

Staff

There are four members of the department who all teach Geography across the various key stages. The department all work together as a team to plan schemes of work, to ensure good practice is shared and high standards maintained. Staff are qualified across a range of specifications from geography, environment and geology, allowing us to professionally address the full spectrum of specialist topics from national curriculum, through GCSE to Alevel.

KS3

KS3 geography is taught in form groups and students have three lessons a fortnight. Students are taught an engaging and enriching curriculum, where relevance to the wider world and future application with and beyond geography are promoted.

KS4

Geography is extremely popular at GCSE we currently have over 100 studying geography in Year 10 and 96 in Year 11. Each year group is split into four mixed ability sets and they each receive five lessons of geography a fortnight. Students are encouraged to attend master-classes in Year 11 to support their studies. We currently follow Edexcel A specification, where the topics studied include Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Management, Resource Management, Changing Cities, Changing Landscapes of the UK and Global Development. Students also complete two days of non-residential fieldwork, looking at coastal landscapes and changing urban environments. In the 2022 GCSE 99% of Geographers passed, with 60% achieving levels 7/8/9.

KS5

At KS5 geography is a very popular option, we currently have 27 students following the A level course across years 12 and 13. We follow the AQA specification and teach the topics of Water & carbon cycles, Coastal systems & landscapes, Hazards, Global systems & global governance, Changing places and Contemporary urban environments. All students in Year 12 and 13 have nine lessons a fortnight and this is split between two teachers. The results

for geography A-level are excellent. At A-level in 2022 100% of students passed with 57 % of students achieved A*-B.

At A-level and GCSE we continue to be proud of what our students achieve.

Fieldwork

As a department we believe that fieldwork is very important in bringing geography alive. Years 7, 8, 10 and 11 all have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of fieldwork. Year 12 spend 3 days studying at the Field Studies Council location at Blencathra in the Lake District to learn fieldwork techniques in advance of planning their independent Non Examined Assessment project. Students are then required to work independently on a topic that interests them; the Department is proactive in encouraging their thinking & planning to support wider interests and next life-steps.

In the Geography Department we encourage all students to seek wider opportunities. We encourage wider reading, watching and travel, through the provision of reading materials, Departmental trips, involvement with school expeditions, taking opportunities to work with & support charities and involvement with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.