Geography looks at the ways people and the places in which they live are connected. You will consider your place as a global citizen, the impacts that humans have on the natural environment, and the opportunities for a more sustainable world. The course will include 2 days of fieldwork experiencing Geography in the real world. Please note there is no coursework or controlled assessment element to GCSE Geography.

Assessment:

Paper 1: Living with the Physical World (35%)

This unit is concerned with the natural environment and the ways in which people interact with it. The major themes include:

The challenges of natural hazards (including plate tectonics, extreme weather, and climate change)

The living world (including in-depth studies of hot desert and tropical rainforest environments)

Physical landscapes in the UK (focussing on river landforms and coasts)

Assessment: 1 hour 30 minute exam

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment (35%)

In this unit, students study major themes in human geography concerning how people interact with the planet and also with each other. The major themes include:

Urban issues and challenges (how cities are formed, what problems exist as a result of the development of cities in HICs and LICs, and how cities could become more sustainable)

The changing economic world

The challenge of resource management (including how resources, such as water and energy, are unevenly distributed both within countries and between countries)

Assessment: 1 hour 30 minute exam

Paper 3: Geographical Applications (30%)

This unit assesses students’ abilities in relation to evaluating issues and conducting fieldwork. The examination paper is divided into two parts. Part one requires students to write about fieldwork investigations they have undertaken and to analyse and evaluate data presented to them in the examination. The second part asks questions about sources of information which are provided to students prior to the examination, so-called pre-released materials.

Assessment: 1 hour 15 minute exam

Skills You Will Develop Include:

Reference skills - the ability to make use of a variety of resources.

Communication skills – the ability to present information in a clear and coherent way.

Interpretative skills – the ability to give meaning to data.

Evaluative skills – the ability to analyse critically and interpret evidence.

Problem solving skills – the ability to enquire and make decisions based on evidence.

Careers and Further Study:

Geography students offer employers an understanding of the world in which they live and work. They see complex relationships between people and the places they live, and have the ability to make carefully reasoned decisions in a fast changing world. The specialised knowledge and skills of a geographer make them especially suited to management jobs in business, town councils and the natural environment. More generally, geography is a much valued subject by employers and educational institutions alike because of its balance of literacy, numeracy and scientific/analytical skills.