The Geography Department at LRGS

There is a great tradition of studying geography at Lancaster Royal Grammar School. It is one of the most popular option subjects at GCSE with over 100 students in Year 10 and 11, and over 40 students in each year of A-level. Over recent years examination results have been excellent: in 2012 the percentage of A\*/A at GCSE was 73.9% while at A-level the percentage of A/B grades was 79.4%. Many students go on to study geography or geography related subjects at university.

GCSE Geography (AQA GCSE 8035)

GCSE Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is up-to-date, hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. The course involves a good mix of topics from the study of natural hazards like volcanoes and tsunamis, to globalisation and the rise of China. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world. If you are interested in current affairs locally or globally this is the course for you.

There are so many ways of learning in geography. It is very practical with opportunities to learn new skills such as: modern computer based mapping (called GIS), fieldwork skills, interpreting photographs, map skills, presenting and debating techniques and role play.

Fieldwork is a really important part of geography. We go to Morecambe, Ainsdale, Lancaster and the Lake District. This provides you with a brilliant opportunity to experience some of the things you have learnt about in class, see things differently and of course have fun. At A Level, students go further afield to Iceland and possibly India.

You will improve your literacy through your report writing and written work and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs. It is a subject that encourages you to question and find out why things happen, to make links, problem solve and form opinions. Such skills make geographers excellent decision makers who are much valued in the work place. International development, environment, marketing, transport, tourism, travel, flood protection, weather, geology, national parks, oceanography, town planning are all career areas that geographers go into alongside law, engineering, and business.

What will I learn?

With the emphasis on up to date, located examples, the topics that are covered at GCSE are:

Natural Hazards: Tectonic and Hazards, Weather Hazards, Climate Change

Ecosystems, Tropical Rainforests, Cold Environments

UK Physical Landscapes: Coastal Landscapes and Glacial Landscapes

Urban Issues Globally and within the UK

The changing Economic World

Global variations in economic development and quality of life.

Closing the Global Development Gap

Newly Emerging Economies

UK economic changes

Resource management

Energy issues

Geographical skills

Students are required to develop and demonstrate a range of geographical skills, including cartographic, graphical, numerical and statistical skills, throughout their study of the specification. Skills will be assessed in all three written exams. Ordnance Survey (OS) maps or other map extracts may be used in any of the three exams.

You will be expected to:

Keep up to date with geography in the news, empathise with other people’s views and consider your opinion, use and understand geographical vocabulary learn about places all over the world.

Geography helps you to understand the world around you and develop critical opinions on topics that affect you.