Subject rationale – Why study the subject? What benefits does it bring?

Geography encourages people to consider the importance of ‘place’ and peoples role on the planet. It teaches students about important contemporary issues that affect local, regional and global communities. Thinking geographically is a uniquely powerful way of seeing the world and learning about Geography improves young people's capability. This includes building knowledge and the capacity to think creatively and critically in society and in different environments. The value of geography to the educational experience of pupils can be understood through a number of scales, be that through the development of social, moral and spiritual values, through to equipping pupils with the skills and understanding they need to navigate the complex and dynamic adventure that is modern day living.

KS4 curriculum overview

At Key Stage 4 we follow the AQA GCSE specification.

Assessment overview

Paper 1 (8035/1): Living with the physical environment – 1hr 30 minute exam worth 35%

The Living World

The Challenge of Natural Hazards

Physical Landscapes in the UK

Paper 2 (8035/2): Challenges in the human environment – 1hr 30 minute exam worth 35%

Urban Issues and Challenges

The Changing Economic World

The Challenge of Resource Management

Paper 3 (8035/3): Geographical applications – 1hr 15 minute exam worth 30%

2 pieces of fieldwork conducted and exam questions answered based upon the hypothesis, methodology, analysis and conclusions

Pre-release decision making exercise released 12 weeks before the final exam date.

Career opportunities

Geography is a broad based academic subject which is well respected by employers. Geographers enter a very wide range of career areas and put simply there is no such thing as a geography job, there are jobs that geographers do. Studying geography provides you with valuable skills and a firm base for life-long learning. A number of our A level students go on to study Geography or Geography related degrees at university.

Possible careers include:

Volcanology

Environmental consultancy

Development

Economics

Finance

Geology

Teaching

Law

Banking

Geophysical engineering

Location analyst

Armed forces

Conflict resolution

Surveying

Disaster management

Hydrology

Climatology

GIS and many more