

GEOGRAPHY

Head of Department

Mr J Allitt

The department aims to provide a stimulating and rewarding geographical experience for all and help students to become thoughtful geographers and independent thinkers.

In studying Geography, students develop a body of factual knowledge that will support conceptual understanding and stimulate an interest in the world. To achieve this, geography teaching at the academy is based on themes that investigate physical environments, social and economic activities and the relationships that exist between people and places. In the Geography scheme of work reference is made to the local area, the United Kingdom, Europe and the wider world with studies at local, national, international and global scale.

Geography lessons involve strategies for teaching students to ask questions and pursue a 'route to enquiry'. A range of intellectual and practical skills is taught such as: observation, measurement, information selection, interpretation, synthesis, decision making and problem solving. Graphical skills are taught including graph selection and presentation, map work, sketching and diagrammatic representation. Fieldwork is used to teach some of these skills.

The Geography scheme of work involves the study of a variety of places local and distant, at a variety of scales and at varying stages of development. Thus students develop a sense of their own identity, of their place in the world and empathy for other life styles, cultures and attitudes. Teaching strategies are in place in Geography to help students develop an understanding of global responsibility and interdependence. These strategies also encourage students to develop their own opinions and attitudes.

Current Fieldtrips

Year 8

1 week residential trip to Normandy, France studying tourism. Plus team building adventure activities.

Year 9

Trip to Queen Elizabeth Park to investigate sustainable communities.

Year 10

Trip to Walton-on-the-Naze to investigate the management of coastal areas.

Year 12

Students will have several field trips to contrasting landscapes to assist them with collecting primary data for their individual piece of course work.

Key Stage 3

Geography is a compulsory subject at KS3. Students follow the National Curriculum for England.

KS3 – Years 7 and 8

Year 7

Skills Developed

In Year 7, students are taught a wide range of interesting topics which aim to create an enthusiasm and love of Geography alongside the development of key geographical skills.

Students are taught map skills using atlases as well as more complex Ordnance Survey maps. The introductory topic in Year 7 ensures all students are confident with grid references, map symbols as well as building upon numeracy skills with lessons on scale and contours.

The Year 7 course provides an excellent balance of human and physical geographical topics taught through contemporary case studies and practical lesson resources. Students have the opportunity to look at different scales such as the local area to worldwide locations such as the rainforests and main rivers of the world. These topics have been carefully selected to ensure students are able to perfect their analytical skills, ability to emphasis as well as explaining processes; all skills necessary should they decide to opt for GCSE Geography.

Content

Term 1

Our Local Area – This course looks carefully at London in particular, from London Boroughs to the Burgess model. It also allows students who have never studied Geography before to practice map skills – including OS Symbols, grid references, scales and contour lines.

Rivers – This unit exposes students to physical Geography by studying river processes such as erosion and deposition. These are studied for students to understand the formation of river features such as oxbow lakes and waterfalls. Students also study contemporary examples of flooding in the UK and Bangladesh.

Term 2

Tourism – A new unit introduced to KS3 scheme of work. This topic studies the appeal of famous landmarks around the world and the impact of tourism to the area. Students will focus on the social, economic and environmental impacts of holiday makers visiting popular

holiday destinations. The latter part of the unit focuses on eco-tourism and how tourism can be made sustainable.

Term 3

Eco-systems – This unit focuses on the rainforest eco-system, namely the Amazon. Students study the layers of the rainforest, the nutrient cycle, plant and animal adaptations as well as the threats to the indigenous people and animals. Students particularly enjoy the debates and stakeholder role play tasks within this unit.

Year 8

Skills Developed

The Year 8 course is again a mix of human and physical geographical topics to provide students with an insight into GCSE Geography. Students build upon skills from Year 7 to study more current contemporary issues such as Climate Change and exploitation in poorer regions. The units provide plenty of opportunity for students to apply atlas skills, numeracy and analytical skills to understand the material.

Content

Term 1

Natural Hazards – This unit allows students to study the structure of the earth and tectonic movement. Disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes are studied alongside contemporary case studies including the Japanese earthquake of 2011 and Icelandic Volcanic eruption. Opportunities to produce 3D models of a volcano as well as tsunami booklets are thoroughly enjoyed by students.

Term 2

Geography of Food – A new unit added to the KS3 scheme of work allows students to study how food arrives on their dinner plate. Students delve into topics relating to Globalisation including food miles, LEDC farmers as well as looking at huge transnational corporations such as Tesco and Walmart.

Term 3

Energy and Global Warming – Another new unit added to the KS3 scheme of work. This allows students to study contemporary relevant debates related to energy use and the impact of human actions on global temperatures. Topics visited in this unit include renewable energies, non-renewable energies, nuclear energy and its impacts. The second half of this topic leads into the causes and the effects of Global Warming and sustainable ways in which this can be tackled.