

Curriculum Intent – Geography

To study geography is to study the world around us. We aim at Highgate Wood to foster curiosity about this beautiful, complex and increasingly fragile planet. The subject is divided into physical and human aspects which overlap through the interaction of people and the environment.

In physical geography students will secure a detailed knowledge of tectonics, landscape, ecosystems and the atmosphere. Understanding the dynamic nature of the Earth is vital and how humans are currently accelerating natural changes. These aspects remain through each key stage, studied in greater depth and range of locations through GCSE and A level. Human management of the environment becomes increasingly important as students progress in their geographical journey, notably through the concept of sustainable development; how small scale decisions impact our global environment.

For human geography the concept of development underpins students' understanding of their place in the world. Studies of globalisation, trade, cities, countryside, population and migration cement knowledge of the human landscape. An analytical approach is used meaning students acquire knowledge built through real world information such as graphs, maps, data, statistics and infographics ensuring they build resilience to independently explain patterns and trends.

At its heart, geography is a study place; how physical and human processes shape different identities. We aim to study a wide variety of places, building knowledge of all seven continents rather than a few depth studies. A detailed knowledge of the UK is taught in Year 7 and returned to throughout. Fieldwork is used to enhance students' understanding with East London, Walton on The Naze and Snowdonia all visited in different key stages as well as the local area. Results in the subject are strong with 41% level 7-9 at GCSE and 70% A*-B at A level. The subject is increasingly popular at GCSE and A level, with 12 students progressing to study geography and related disciplines at university in the last 2 years, destinations include Manchester, Durham, Kings, Lancaster, UEA and Birmingham. Future career pathways linked to the subject are strong with large numbers of jobs in the environmental and sustainability sector, which together with companies needing geographers to utilise spatial Geographical Information Systems make geography one of the most employable degree courses currently.