

Key Stage 5 - Geography

Intent

The Key Stage 5 Geography curriculum builds on GCSE knowledge to deepen students' understanding of human and physical systems and their interactions, following the Edexcel 2016 A level specification. It develops critical thinking, evidence-based reasoning, and the ability to engage confidently with complex global issues and academic debate. The course promotes intellectual curiosity, ethical awareness, and resilience so that students are prepared for further study or higher education and can successfully engage with concepts and challenges in the wider World.

Implementation

Our curriculum builds on knowledge through two concurrently taught units each term, promoting interleaving and synoptic thinking. Year 12 covers Globalisation and Tectonics before Coasts and Diverse Places, supporting NEA subject choice. Year 13 focuses on key concepts including those from water and carbon topics as well as superpowers and NEA completion. Students are encouraged to read widely, reflect on feedback, and set personal targets. Regular assessment with detailed feedback supports personalised learning. Feedback is based on enquiry questions (EQs) present in each topic and uses past paper questions to apply concepts to exam scenarios. 20% of their overall grade is gained through the NEA. Staff guidance helps students develop essential academic and investigative skills.

Impact

Key Stage 5 Geography produces well-rounded, independent learners who can confidently engage in academic debate and apply knowledge to contemporary global issues. Progress and attainment are measured through regular assessments, mock exams, and the completion of a high-quality NEA's demonstrating their ability to research, analyse, and evaluate geographical data. Students show excellent knowledge retention, effectively building on Year 12 content and applying it in Year 13 with increasing sophistication. Many go on to study geography or related subjects at university, using the skills developed—critical thinking, data interpretation, and independent research—across disciplines and into future careers. Success in Geography is evident in strong A level outcomes, confident learners who meet and exceed expectations, and students who are well-prepared for higher education and lifelong engagement with geographical issues.

Assessment

Assessment in Key Stage 5 Geography is carefully structured to support progress and deepen understanding. Formal assessments are carried out at the end of each enquiry question (EQ), allowing students to consolidate learning every 3–4 lessons. These are followed by individual feedback, with dedicated time for students to reflect and improve their work. Mock exams in all three papers assess overall knowledge retention and the ability to apply learning holistically. Low-stakes testing is used frequently in lessons to promote retrieval and interleaving, helping students strengthen long-term memory and make links between topics. All exam-style questions are either teacher-marked or peer assessed, ensuring regular feedback and opportunities for improvement. This approach ensures students know how to progress and are well-prepared for final A level assessments.