

GEOGRAPHY

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT



Geography makes connections between natural, economic, social, political and technological systems and explains how places are interconnected. It develops a knowledge and understanding of current events – and stimulates an interest in and a wonder of the world around us, giving young people a desire to travel and explore confidently. Geography develops transferable skills, including the

traditional interpretation of maps and diagrams to aerial photos, satellite images and the latest GIS technologies. Geography at Walthamstow Hall provides opportunities through fieldwork, at home and abroad, first hand investigation of places, environments and human behaviour.

KEY STAGE 3 STUDIES

In Year 7, we teach students the skills that help them have a deeper understanding of the topics we will cover, including an understanding of the Physical and Human Geography of the British Isles and a localised more detailed understanding of where they live. We introduce tectonic theory, resource exploitation and the harm it does to the environment, and debate on the future energy mix. We conclude by looking at a number of ‘fabulous places’ and what makes them special.

In Year 8, we develop the students’ understanding of World Geography to improve their spatial awareness of the world. Understanding major climate zones assists in their study of Global Biomes, the importance of small and large scale ecosystems, adaption and associated climatic conditions. Students prepare an in-depth study of one biome using a range of research skills, creating a fully referenced presentation to their peers. This is followed by Global Demographics, how and why population is growing unevenly and the problems this is causing. We study coastal processes affecting the UK and the solutions to counteract them, investigated in a field trip to a local area.

In Year 9, we look at complexities of the UK’s weather, building on some of the work from the previous year, looking in more detail and asking why it is so changeable. This extends the students’ understanding of global pressure systems and atmospheric circulation. We will go on to look at Global Development, investigating why so many countries are so poor, and introduce the students to the physical and economic hardships faced by many of the world’s most vulnerable people. This unit will be taught through a range of interactive lessons that try to immerse them within some of the situations. In Term 4, we will embark on the GCSE AQA specification studying Resource Consumption and Economic Wellbeing. Students will be taken on a field trip to ‘The Crystal’ in London to enhance their understanding and help in their independent research.

CO-CURRICULAR LEARNING

Year 7 - Map work, alternative energy, global warming - Physics

Year 8 - Ecosystems and Biomes - Biology

Year 9 - Weather and Climate - Physics

There are annual trips planned in all year groups to enhance student understanding. A bi-annual trip to Iceland is run as part of the enrichment programme within the school.



GCSE

The AQA GCSE Geography course consists of three main areas:

1. Physical Geography topics include:
 - a. Natural hazards pose major risks to people: earthquakes and volcanic eruptions; climate change; tropical storms; and extreme weather in the UK.
 - b. The Living World: small scale ecosystems, tropical rainforests and cold environments.
 - c. The Physical Landscape of the UK: coastal and river systems and landscapes.
2. Human Geography topics look at The Changing Economic World:
 - a. Comparing places in LICs with those in the UK.
 - b. Urban issues and challenges: comparisons cities in LICs and HICs and sustainable solutions to their problems.
 - c. The challenge of Resource Management.
 - d. One of the following topics will be studied: food; energy or water.
3. Geographical Applications includes a decision-making paper, based on pre-released resources and an examination on the application of geographical enquiries; assisted by the collection and analysis of primary data, collected as part of two local fieldwork study days within a field studies centre.

GCSE RESULTS 2019

GRADE	9	8	7	6	5	9 - 5
Geography	11%	39%	22%	17%	11%	100%

A separate subject sheet is available for Geography at A Level.