

Curriculum Purpose Statement – Geography

The central objective of the Humanities faculty is to educate students for membership in a political, social and economic global community by providing historical, geographical and spiritual understanding of many different world cultures.

Firstly, we hope to inspire students with a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

Secondly, we wish to equip students with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and the natural human environments. As the curriculum progresses, students should deepen their understanding of the interactions between human and physical processes, how they are interconnected as well as change overtime. Students need to have an acute awareness of their influence over the environment, both physical and human and understand their role in the world as responsible global citizens.

Finally, it is our aim to embed skill acquisition into lessons at KS3 so that students are able to continuously develop skills such as explanation, evaluation and interpretation to enable them to make informed judgements using both knowledge and skills. Within each topic we also emphasise geographical skills and ensure all students can use a range of maps; atlases; aerial and satellite photographs; geographical information systems; and have also gained fieldwork experience in contrasting locations.

By the end of KS3 students will:

- Have studied the national curriculum for Geography developing contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places, defining human and physical characteristics such as the UK, Africa and through the International Relationships topic.
- To understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world for example 'Restless Earth' topic, Biomes and our Introduction to Geography at Hanley.
- Students gain fieldwork skills that deepen their understanding of geographical processes and allow them to collect, analyse and communicate a range of data. Students obtain this through the Weather and Climate topic, as well as in our Introduction to Hanley Castle topic where students learn a range of map skills.
- Students will obtain skills needed to be a Geography student such as description, explanation, evaluation and interpretation. They do this by interpreting a range of sources such as maps, aerial photographs and GIS, to enable them to make their own judgements for example the bench assessment.
- Students need to have experienced Geography in the real world, which is done through visiting local Geographical sites such as the flood plain in Tewkesbury and further afield at the Black Country Museum looking at how employment sectors have changed over time.
- Have enjoyed their experience in KS3 Geography to encourage as many students as possible to choose GCSE, such as the volcano party in year 8.

By the end of KS4 students will:

- Gain knowledge and understanding of places, environments and processes as well as understanding the interactions between them and the changes overtime within a cultural, political and social context.
- Be equipped with the skills they need to create high quality responses and be appropriately supported and challenged to attain the best grade they can.
- Have built positive, professional relationships with the geography team through a range of exciting experiences both within the classroom and on residential fieldtrips.
- Have an instilled interest, knowledge and understanding of the world around them to enable them to make informed geographical opinions on world events.
- Develop a passion for geography and a trust in staff, knowing that learning is tailored to their individual needs through a range of their preferred learning activities in a hope that they will study the subject at KS5.

By the end of KS5 students will:

- Gained a further understanding of social, economic, environmental and political issues which have impacted on world events in the past, present and how they will project into the future.
- Students will have completed independent research in their coursework and have had the opportunity to collect their own data during a residential fieldtrip and written this up in the form of a scientific report. This will equip them with a myriad of skills which will equip them for university.
- Have learned the vital skills need to gain the best results possible in their exams through the effective implementation of exam skills within lessons.
- Gained a positive relationship with staff during the residential fieldtrip and as a result of smaller class sizes, allowing them to communicate confidently and effectively with adults to prepare them for the wider world.
- Look at geographical events and be able to successfully interpret them using both their skills, knowledge and understanding of geographical issues.
- Gained intrinsic value for the subject which may inspire them to study geography at university and for the subject to inspire their future career choice.