



Geography

Overview:

This course will allow you to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of places, environments, concepts, processes, interactions, and change at a variety of scales. You will need to apply knowledge and understanding in different contexts to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues. There will be an area of individual investigative fieldwork and this will be written up as a non-examined piece. This is a sizeable piece of work but is wholly defined by the student and gives a real sense of ownership. Previous NEAs have looked at topics as diverse as the coastal zone in the Maldives, comparing population characteristics in areas of London, the regeneration of areas following new sport or retail facilities such as MK or Rushden Lakes, how terrorism impacts perception of place in Manchester or how human activity impacts infiltration and erosion rates in Fineshade Woods.

Students will follow the OCR A level Geography course (code H481)

Students will study a range of topics as varied as *Carbon and Water Cycles* through to *Human Rights*, although all areas will include elements of skills whatever the taught content. There is an equal balance between human and physical geography and the need for making links between all areas of the course. Students will need to construct arguments and draw conclusions as well as interpret and evaluate evidence; this is especially true of the debate papers.

Expectations:

To prepare appropriately for classroom learning it is expected that all students will have completed the summer homework tasks. Students will need to purchase the core texts that will cover A Level study. Additional reading is also expected so that students become familiar with both traditional concepts as laid out in textbooks but also contemporary issues to be grappled with through reading newspapers and geographical journals, blogs, and websites. In order to better consolidate classroom learning, students will also be expected to add to classroom notes independently, building on arguments and developing more in-depth knowledge of key theories and contentious issues. In previous years, students have also contributed to on-line forums where they are able to engage with other learners to develop their responses.

Extra-Curricular Activities/Independent Learning Opportunities:

Field work visits in the UK to rivers, coastline and cities are all compulsory parts of the course. Currently we run trips to the Norfolk coast and Birmingham, as well as the local river. We also aim to run a trip to Iceland/ Cern every other year.

Entry Requirement: There are no additional entry requirements to those mentioned in the Sixth Form Prospectus. However, students should have a grade 5 or above in Geography, OR 5 subjects or more at grade 5 and above AND grade 5 or above in Maths, English Language, and a Science if no GCSE Geography