

KS3 Curriculum Overview

Geography

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Curriculum Intent including key skills and key concepts

Rationale for KS3 Curriculum

Overview

KS3 Geography is a balance of physical/human/environmental topics. Each unit introduces new keywords, concepts and understanding. The units build in complexity to help support and challenge all students towards the demands of GCSE. Embedded throughout the curriculum is the development of map skills, graphicity and numeracy.

Year 7 (2hrs a week)

- Introduction to Geography
- Map Skills
- Weather (UK and extreme)
- Ecosystems (TRF + comparison choice)
- Settlement
- Earning a living (jobs + economy)
- Coasts
- Tourism in North Devon

Year 8 (1hr a week)

- Rivers & Flooding
- Population Change & Challenges
- Development Issues
- Changing Asia
- Challenges in Africa

Each topic has a summative GCSE style assessment to develop familiarity with exam questions and command words. Embedded in the topics are opportunities to build-in specific time for reflection and for students to have the opportunity to improve their work.

Pupils arrive in Year 7 having had a very mixed 'experience' of Geography at Primary School. So it is essential that our curriculum 'centres' pupils in geographical knowledge, skills and a wider appreciation of their environment. Whilst preparing the foundations for sound progression into GCSE Geography we aim to deliver genuine learning experiences – where pupils feel safe to explore new ideas, places and skills – where pupils can see the relevance of Geography in their lives and futures. Through this, we hope to contribute to our pupils' enjoyment and engagement at school and, crucially, to help build self-confidence and resilience in our young learners.

As a school that serves a catchment with significant social and economic needs yet is sited in stunning coastline, with areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a National Park nearby – we believe all pupils should learn about their local heritage and have opportunities to develop a sense of respect for their surroundings.

Strengthened GCSEs courses and the loss of tiered papers have highlighted to us the absolute need for our students to be literate (Level 2 vocabulary) – both in confidence with subject vocabulary and response to 'command words'. Therefore, throughout our curriculum there is emphasis on developing vocabulary as many of our students come from 'word poor' households.

Relevant Department Interventions and Support and Access Arrangements

The department liaise with the Access Arrangement assessor from Y9 onwards.

The subject has differentiated textbooks and visual resources at KS3 and KS4. All teachers work closely with TAs, especially our Humanities TA, to prepare work and tasks to help tailor learning to individual needs

Enrichment Opportunities

Year 7

- Comparison of traffic/pedestrian counts
- Microclimate survey
- School grounds Environmental Quality Assessment
- Exmoor National Park – hosting opening event of Dark Skies Festival
- Exmoor Dark Skies Poetry Competition (collaboration with English dept)
- Opportunity to start Environment leaders club
- Opportunity to run trip to Eden Project (with Science dept)
- Opportunity for Coastal fieldtrip to Westward Ho!

Year 8

- Rivers fieldwork on River Lyn with Exmoor National Park
- Exmoor National Park – hosting opening event of Dark Skies Festival
- Exmoor Dark Skies Poetry Competition (collaboration with English dept)
- Exmoor Dark Skies Art contribution (collaboration with Art department)

Year 9

Pupils start GCSE course – 2 fieldtrips compulsory part of course, examined in Paper 3

Human fieldwork – Regeneration in Bristol
Physical Fieldwork – Rivers on Exmoor

Links to Key Stage 4 and 5

- All KS3 topics are directly relevant to the AQA 9-1 GCSE course we currently study (Papers 1 & 2)
- Fieldwork experiences, both on site and off site, are useful foundations towards GCSE exam (Paper 3)
- Move to Issues based enquiries in Year 8 topics help towards GCSE exam (Paper 3)
- Development of 'exam experience' and expectations of how to respond to 'command words' supports all papers in GCSE exam
- Overall development of interest in subject and relevance to future lives motivates pupils to opt for subject and further learning

Attached Documentation

Document	Tick if present
Department Improvement Plan	
Exam Review	
Curriculum and Progression Map for Year 7-13	
Dept Assessment Calendar 7-9	
Assessment Tasks & Criteria	
Terminal Assessment(s)	
Schemes of Work Year 7-9	