

Geography department curriculum statement

The vision for Geography at Wykham Park Academy and Futures Institute is to make it a consistently strong choice at EBACC, improving and sustaining results to grow from what it was, and to increase take up for GCSE and then into A-Level. We want to make Geographers who are knowledgeable, resilient and self-sufficient, who recognise the value and importance of Geography and can transfer the skills into other subjects.

This will be done by making the curriculum engaging, with links to the modern day, and making sure that there is something for everyone – e.g. a wide variety of Geography covered at KS3, KS4 and KS5 (see CPM), and ensuring that they appreciate the skills that they learn in Geography can help them, both in other subjects (e.g. English, Science) and in their own lives (understanding their impact on the environment, travelling the world, appreciating other cultures.).

The curriculum has been designed to build up on the knowledge of key Geographical processes from Year 7 (at Wykham Park Academy), as well as beginning to introduce key concepts to do with the content from Y7. There is a wide range of subject matter taught throughout KS3, which shows students what Geography is all about and how it all links together. It is also designed to ensure that the step up from KS3 to GCSE is not so daunting and enables students to make the move to improve results.

We are going to overcome social disadvantage by ensuring that all materials are accessible to all students – using Google Classroom etc. We are going to be running trips and other enrichment opportunities to make sure that the students all have the same opportunities to appreciate and access the curriculum.

Key Stage 4

Pupils will begin their GCSE course studying the three physical geography modules of the AQA specification;

- **The challenge of natural hazards** – In this module pupils will learn about tectonic and climatic hazards and how to mitigate the impacts of such hazards. Pupils will also learn how climate change is affecting our planet and effectively being managed.
- **The living world** – In this module pupils will study three contrasting biomes around the globe; tropical rainforests, polar regions, and desert environments.
- **Physical landscapes in the UK** – In this module pupils will learn about contrasting landscapes such as coasts, rivers and glaciers. Pupils will also assess case studies on both a local and national scale.

Pupils will then begin studying the three human geography modules within the specifications;

- **Urban issues and challenges** – In this module pupils will learn about the complex structure of urban environments, assess urban areas within the UK as well as evaluating methods used to improve the sustainability of urban settings.
- **The changing economic world** – In this module pupils will be assessing the changes occurs in our world regarding development such as “why are some countries richer than others” and “what impact does migration have on the UK?”. Pupils will also study Nigeria as a case study.
- **The Challenge of resource management** – In this module the pupils will understand the fragility of different resource on our planet such as fossil fuels, food and clean drinking water. Pupils will also study conflicts that have arisen due to this scarcity of resources and the impacts this can have on geo-political situations.

In addition to the six modules within the GCSE specification for Geography, the pupils will also **complete two compulsory fieldwork** activities which they will require for one of their examinations.

Our aim as a department is to teach Geography at Key stage 4 in such a way which develops curiosity about the physical and human world, our interactions between the two, as well as how to promote sustainability to the next generation of Geographers.

Key Stage 5

Pupils who select to study Geography at A-level will complete 6 modules, 3 physical and 3 human.

Physical;

- The water and carbon cycle
- Natural Hazards
- Coastal Environments

Human;

- Changing places
- Global systems and governments
- Urban environments

In addition to the six modules within the A-Level specification for Geography, the pupils will also complete two compulsory fieldwork activities which they will require for one of their examinations.

Our aim as a department is to teach Geography at Key stage 5 in such a way which develops curiosity about the physical and human world, our interactions between the two, as well as how to promote sustainability to the next generation of Geographers. At Key Stage 5 the pupils will build onto the knowledge of GCSE and require a deeper level of knowledge into key geographical concepts.