



Geography Curriculum Overview

Our goal in the Geography Department is to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to critically explore geographical concepts and issues. Throughout their studies, students foster an understanding of the complex relationships between people and places.

At Key Stage 3, students begin their geographical journey by developing essential skills and understanding fundamental processes. In Year 7, the focus is on foundational skills such as map reading and analysis, with investigative geography and GIS tools like ArcGIS introduced to study change in urban and rural landscapes. In Year 8, students build on their prior knowledge by exploring topics such as rivers, weather, climate change, and development indicators. In Year 9, the emphasis shifts to natural hazards and urban issues, preparing students for the transition to GCSE. Students participate in a field trip to Nine Elms, where they apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings. The trip provides opportunities to practice data collection techniques and use geographical tools such as maps and GIS, both of which are integral to their studies in geography.

At Key Stage 4, geography becomes an optional subject but remains a popular choice. Students continue to deepen their understanding with a greater emphasis on applying their knowledge to contemporary, real-world contexts. Topics covered include UK physical landscapes, resource management, urban issues, and climate change. Fieldwork plays a central role at this stage, with the Kingston 'Go Cycle' and the Tillingbourne River investigation forming an essential part of the Paper 3 fieldwork assessment. Moreover, these trips allow students to explore geographical concepts in greater depth, enhancing their understanding of the subject.

At A-level, the curriculum offers a more detailed exploration of both physical and human geography. Topics include the water and carbon cycles and global governance. A key component of their studies is the independent investigation (NEA), where students apply their learning to a specific geographical issue of their choice. Practical experience is further enriched by a residential field trip and several London-based day trips, providing hands-on opportunities to apply theoretical knowledge and deepen their grasp of geographical concepts.

We aim to prepare students for the future while fostering a deep understanding of the geographical issues that shape our world. Our approach is designed to help students develop the critical skills and knowledge necessary for success in their academic journey and beyond.

KS3 Geography Curriculum

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Autumn Term 1	'Where in the world'. How can we accurately locate and describe places on Earth?	Weather and Climate. Why does the weather change?	Natural Hazard. Why do some natural hazards have a greater impact on people than others?
Autumn Term 2	Coasts. How do coastal environments affect people and place?	Climate Change. Why is climate change a problem and how can we respond?	Urban Studies. How is London managed to meet the needs of a growing city?
Spring Term 1	'Traffic Investigation'. What is a geographical enquiry?	Tiffin School Microclimate: investigative geography. How do wind and sunlight affect the temperature of different outdoor areas of Tiffin School in winter?	Urban Studies. How is Lagos changing, and what challenges does this create?
Spring Term 2	Settlements. Why do settlements change over time and space?	Rivers. Why do rivers change as they flow and how do they cause flooding?	Water as a Natural Resource. Why is water an increasingly contested resource?
Summer Term 1	Glaciation. How do glaciers shape the landscape?	Development. Why do countries develop at different rates and how does this affect people's quality of life?	Ecosystems & Tropical Environments. What are tropical rainforests, and why are they under threat?
Summer Term 2	Country Profile: India. How and why does life vary across India?	A study of Russia. How do physical and human factors shape life in Russia?	Climate Change Projects. How should we respond to the challenges of climate change?

KS4 Geography Curriculum

	Year 10	Year 11
Autumn Term 1	UK physical landscapes, Coastal landscapes in the UK	UK physical landscapes, Rivers
Autumn Term 2	The changing economic world	Urban issues and challenges
Spring Term 1	The changing economic world + The Living World: Introduction/ TRF	Urban issues and challenges including Kingston 'Go Cycle' Investigation and field trip. The challenge of natural hazard (tectonics)
Spring Term 2	The Living World: Cold Environments	The challenge of natural hazards: Weather hazards + Climate change
Summer Term 1	Tillingbourne Investigation and field trip	Geographical applications: Issue evaluation
Summer Term 2	The challenge of resource management	Exams

KS5 Geography Curriculum

	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn Term 1	Coastal systems and landscapes Coasts as natural systems and processes Contemporary urban environments Urban climate and drainage Introduction for 'The Investigation'	NEA 5 day residential field trip Water, carbon, climate and life on Earth Changing places Meaning and representation, Quantitative and qualitative skills Place studies
Autumn Term 2	Coastal systems and landscapes Coastal landscape development and case studies Contemporary urban environments Urbanisation, urban forms and social and economic issues Methods for 'The Investigation'	5 day residential field trip Hazards: Concept in a geographical context and plate tectonics Global systems and global governance Globalisation and Global systems
Spring Term 1	Coastal systems and landscapes Coastal management and case studies Introduction to Water and carbon cycles Contemporary urban environments Urban waste and its disposal Other contemporary urban environmental issues	Hazards Volcanic and seismic hazards Global systems and global governance International trade and access to markets Global governance and The 'global commons'
Spring Term 2	Water and carbon cycles Water and carbon cycles as natural systems Changing places The nature and importance of places	Hazards Atmospheric hazards Fires in nature Case studies Global systems and global governance Antarctica as a global common, globalisation critique and skills
Summer Term 1	Water and carbon cycles The water cycle and The carbon cycle Changing places Relationships and connections and place studies	Revision
Summer Term 2	Exam feedback and review. Candidate Record Form for NEA London day trips to Nine Elms, Brick Lane and New Malden.	