



# Curriculum *Newsletter*

## GEOGRAPHY

Geography is the study of space and place, recognising the great differences in cultures, economies, landscapes and environments across the world, and exploring the links between them. The subject of Geography occupies a distinctive place in the world of learning for students at all key stages, highlighting the complex relationship between people, places and the environment.

## Curriculum intent

Geography at Hermitage Academy is an immersive experience, exposing students to a wide range of fascinating topics, ranging from the fragility of the Earth's landscape, to the growing trends of urbanisation around the world. The Geography department's goal is to start students on a journey of discovery of the world around us, equipping them with a wide range of transferrable skills, alongside the academic qualifications they will gain.

Studying Geography at Hermitage Academy helps students to be more socially and environmentally sensitive, better informed, and more responsible as citizens and students. From the classroom, students will go on a voyage of discovery through continents, countries and cities, gaining a greater awareness of the captivating world around us.

## Key Stage 3 Curriculum

In Key Stage 3, the curriculum looks to build on the foundations of KS2. In Year 7, students will study:

- Fantastic Places, Continents, Countries of Europe, significant places in the UK and essential skills needed as a Geographer.

- Population of the world and why people live in certain places to causes of growth. While migration has both advantages and disadvantages – why do people move? With international and UK based case examples.
- Weather and Climate – understanding the weather around us, why does it rain? Look at different impacts on our national weather right down to the microclimates of Hermitage Academy through a geographical investigation.
- Urban Environments – their growth due to migration and the positive and negative impacts this can have, through looking to the future with sustainable cities.
- Coasts - take a trip to the coast to see the physical processes that shape our distinctive coastline. Also understanding the threat of sea level rise from climate change and what can be done to mitigate these effects for a more sustainable future – formulate a plan to defend The Holderness coastline but at what cost?
- International Development – what is the richest country in the world? – how do we measure development

In Year 8, students will study:

- Geological World focusing on the rocks of our planet and how they are formed. To then look at the Earth's structure and how this shapes our planet through volcanic activity and the human impacts this activity can have.
- Climate Change – the Earth's climate is changing – but why and what effect could this have on the world's weather – how will the world's extreme weather events be affected in the future and what can we do to adapt to live with these changes.
- Glaciation focusses on the changing UK Climate which has resulted in past glaciations.

What features are formed and how to identify them through maps and photos to finally looking at the human use of these environments and their futures.

- Economic Activity – How do countries become rich and the changes of different industrial sectors in the UK. How have these changes affected the development of the UK through inequality and leveling up (North/South Divide).
- Evolving Continents. This leads onto the development and comparison of the continents of Asia and Africa.
- Rivers - explore the fluvial processes and features formed on our great rivers. The need for rivers to be managed – even the River Wear in Chester le Street, including how we can protect ourselves and homes through different management strategies from river flooding.

In Year 9, students study an introduction to:

- Wonderful Biomes around the world with a focus on a range of ecosystems such as cold/hot environments to contrast to the Tropical rainforests. How are these landscapes shaped by natural processes and the role of humans in shaping their future.
- Resource Conflict through the uneven distribution of resources such as food, water, and energy to use case examples to explain these conflicts and how they impact both local and global regions. Develop the concept of sustainability.
- Dangers of the Geological and Tectonic world with a more in-depth study of the structure of the earth and the dangers of earthquakes. This relates to the impact of location, and wealth, on the effects and capability of an area to respond. Different case studies are used to support application of knowledge to real life examples.
- Dangers in the Atmosphere with a focus of hazards such as Tropical Storms, Tornadoes, and Wildfires in a global context. Then to focus on the UK weather issues using past examples such as the Beast from the East.
- Contemporary Urban issues to understand variation in urban areas and how these are influenced by inequality. To identify evidence

of these through areas such as crime, dereliction, pollution, and traffic management.

- A sustainable world – what is sustainability and link this through previous topics to find possible solutions to global issues such as food, cities, pollution (plastics) and industrial development.

## Key Stage 4 Curriculum

In Key Stage 4, the curriculum delivers a high-quality geography education. Students study:

- The Challenge of Natural Hazards – understanding how natural hazards pose a major threat to people and property.
- The Living World – exploring the biotic and abiotic features that make up our planet.
- Physical Landscapes in the UK – review the diverse nature of the UK's coastline and rivers.
- The Challenge of Urban environment - understand the challenges and opportunities in cities in an HIC and an LIC and how we can live in a sustainable way.
- The Changing Economic World – learn about the global variations in economic development and quality of life.
- Resource Management – understand the fundamental aspects of human life: food, water and energy.
- Geographical Applications – hone your craft as a geographer with a review of the skills gained in geography and apply your knowledge to real life events.

# Key Stage 5 Curriculum

Students are encouraged to develop their knowledge of:

- Earth Systems – a focus on how the earth operates as a dynamic system, focusing on the Water cycle and Carbon Cycles. How are they influenced through feedback loops and the role of human activity in creating positive feedback loops. To think synoptically in how they are interrelated and how a small variation in one can have a significant impact elsewhere.
- Coastal Systems – developing the idea of inputs and out puts of sediment through processes of erosion, transport, and deposition to shape a coastal landscape over time, to produce distinctive features. To assess the future role of climate change on our coasts and particularly the need to defend certain areas more than others.
- Hazards – to delve in the issue of tectonic hazards and atmospheric hazards and how we can model people’s response to these events, by having a detailed understanding of their causes and effects. By looking at specific case examples we can evaluate and critically analyse responses to offer long-term solutions, as more people are affected by these events due to climate change and population growth.

- Changing Places – Changing Places focuses upon people's engagement with places, their experience of them and the qualities they ascribe to them, all of which are of fundamental importance in their lives. The students investigate the notion of changing places through two contrasting places, one which is local and a contrasting place which is likely to be distant, but is used to emphasise how significant the contrast is in terms of economic development, population density and cultural background.
- Population - This population unit of study explores the relationships between key aspects of physical geography and population numbers, population health and well-being, levels of economic development and the role and impact of the natural environment. Students engage with population across different scales which to identify relationships between the physical environment and human populations and the relationships between people in their local, national and international communities.
- Global Systems and Governance – Global Systems and Governance focuses upon the key human geography concept of globalisation – How the economic, political and social changes associated with technological and other driving forces which have been a key feature of global economy and society in recent decades. Due to increased interdependence and transformed global relationships between peoples, states and environments, students investigate how these relationships have been attempted to be managed on an international scale through global governance.

## Studying geography can open doors ...

Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the world's current problems boil down to geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. You will find geographers working in a wide range of jobs, from the city to planning, working in the environment to travel and tourism, or in international charities and retail. Studying geography can help young people achieve careers that are professionally and financially rewarding and also enjoyable. Geography illustrates the past, explains the present and prepares us for the future ... what could be more important than that?

The transferable knowledge and skills developed by studying geography are actively sought out by employers allowing graduate geographers to consistently experience lower than average levels of unemployment. Geography graduates are currently less likely to be unemployed than graduates who have studied other degrees. It is a myth that geographers can only do certain types of jobs. In fact, there are a wealth of jobs geographers do spanning almost every sector.

A geography degree opens up careers in a range of fields, including those in the education, commerce, industry, transport, tourism and public sectors. You'll also have many transferable skills, attracting employers from the business, law and finance sectors.

Employers include:

- the armed forces
- charities
- the Civil Service
- environmental consultancies
- environmental protection agencies
- information systems organisations
- local government
- Ministry of Defence
- police service
- private companies
- utility companies.