



Geography Learning Area

LEARNING AREA

The Humanities Learning Area teaches Geography and History at all Key Stages; RE to Key Stages 3 and 4; and Travel and Tourism to Key Stages 4 and 5. The area consists of a dynamic learning base which caters for 78 students and 4 study rooms; each with an interactive white board. This space can be used in a flexible way to engage the students in Geography through active learning.

The department also houses a full range of field work equipment that can be used on site or on our variety of field visits. The Geography Department takes responsibility for planning and teaching the highly successful BTEC Travel and Tourism courses.

STAFFING

Currently five full-time teachers and one part-time teacher work within this Learning Area. Responsibility within the department is under the Head of Department and is overseen by the Head of Humanities and a Deputy Head.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Key Stage 4 students follow the AQA Geography specification. In 2021 100% of students attained a grade in the course with 56% of students achieving a grade 4 and above, whilst 21% of GCSE Geography students achieved a grade 7 and above.

Geography follow the Edexcel A Level specification in Key Stage 5. In 2021 100% of students passed the course with 90% attaining a grade C and above.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Humanities staff operate a joint planning system and team teaching for an active learning environment in the Learning Base at Key Stages 3 and 4. Our lessons include a range of activities and learning styles including independent and group work. Tasks also focus upon developing research and investigation skills. Learning has always usually been enhanced by a range of Geographical fieldwork such as a river study at Cannock Chase and a glaciation residential to the Lake District. Geography also enjoys hosting a number of visitors into the curriculum area to enrich the learning of our students.



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Key Stage 3

The Geography Department follows the National Curriculum and covers a range of Human and Physical Geographical concepts. These are framed by specific key questions. In Year 7 students look to provide answers to the questions 'Where in the world am I?', 'How is the UK changing?' and 'Are we exploiting our world?' In Year 8 students will develop their understanding of Human and Physical Geographical concepts by answering the key questions 'Is our world at risk?', 'Are humans or nature causing hazards?' and 'Why do we live in an unequal world?'

Key Stage 4

GCSE Geography: AQA: Urban Issues & Challenges, The Changing Economic World, Natural Tectonic Hazards, Weather and Climate Change, River Landscapes, Ecosystems and Cold Environments. Usually student's also have two fieldwork studies where they look at the need for Regeneration in Bloxwich and then collect Human and Physical data in Cannock Chase. BTEC Travel & Tourism: Edexcel: Units include UK Travel & Tourism Sector, Customer Service and UK Destinations.

Key Stage 5

Year 12 A2 Geography: Edexcel: Dynamic Landscapes where students study Tectonic Processes and Hazards and Coastal Landscapes in Physical Geography and Dynamic Places where students study Globalisation and Shaping Places, looking at Regeneration in Cannock and Walsall in Human Geography. Year 13 A2 Geography: Edexcel: Physical Systems and Sustainability in Physical Geography where students study The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity, The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security, and Future Climate Change in Physical Geography. In Human Geography students study Human Systems and Geopolitics looking at Superpowers and Global Development and Connections. BTEC Travel & Tourism: Edexcel: The World of Travel and Tourism, Global Destinations, Visitor Attractions and Marketing in Travel and Tourism.

ENRICHMENT

Visitors to the Geography Department include Midcounties Co-operative who deliver workshops on Sustainable living and Energy. Learning also takes place outside the classroom with a variety of previous visits including, Alton Towers, Tamworth, West Midlands Safari Park and Cannock Chase across the key stages. We also run weekend residential courses for Key Stage 5 in a coastal area. The Humanities Department lead the *Learning outside the Classroom Programme*, which includes the Ski Academy and we also have a strong partnership with the Outward Bound Trust and lead bi-annual expeditions to countries abroad such as Ethiopia, Nepal and India.