

Geography Curriculum 2022

Intent

The Geography curriculum at Ridgeway Secondary School has been created to be broad, dynamic and inspirational. It aims to instil a sense of wonder and curiosity to spark a life-long interest and understanding of the world in which we live. This development of knowledge is essential in our current complex world where physical and human geography issues are co-dependent and intrinsically linked to the headlines in our news. We aim to ensure that students are informed, understand the context of such issues and develop a drive to become active, tolerant and responsible citizens in the modern world.

The curriculum is scaffolded to build geographical skills such as investigation, data analysis and evaluation but also to develop numeracy and literacy to support our students and build essential cross-curricular and life skills. Emphasis is placed on broadening geographical vocabulary, improving writing and reasoning to give students the tools to effectively understand, present and explain geographical issues from the past, present and future. The rich KS3 curriculum is designed to encompass a range of traditional and more modern topics to put context to the world around us and allow exploration of current affairs at a range of scales including local, national and international issues. It builds on knowledge learnt at KS2 and offers opportunities to be assessed in a range of different ways with the intention of building a firm foundation for GCSE studies but also to ensure that there is a breadth and depth of curriculum for those who opt not to continue their geography studies into KS4.

The topic pathway chosen takes students on a journey across the planet using case-studies to develop understanding in a variety of familiar and unfamiliar contexts. Many students at Ridgeway have not yet had the opportunity to experience different or far-away places and the intention is to build familiarity with very different places yet to introduce the similarities and links to their smaller world and to investigate and explain the differences. Broad themes of development, sustainability, environmental stewardship, globalisation and climate change are studied in a circular curriculum generating a deeper understanding of these critical areas. This helps to build cultural capital through looking at political decisions and the powerful economic factors that influence different regions.

Implementation

Content in Geography is taught and continually assessed in a variety of ways. Students are exposed to complicated ideas and challenged to extend and develop their answers from the start of year 7. Regular assessment in KS3 includes; extended written pieces, examinations, short recall tests and keyword tests but also extends beyond traditional testing to oral answers, interviews, groups work and decision-making and problem solving presentations. These strategies are now being included in KS4 assessment to aid and stretch progress, especially for more reluctant writers. The experienced Geography team have collaborated to produce well-resourced lessons that are interactive and dynamic.

At KS4, vital case study details are revised through a carefully created series of revision techniques to aid recall and improve progress using the brain learning techniques delivered through recent research and evidence-based training. Throughout their geography experience at SHS, students will be taught to; develop their independent inquiry skills, use a range of mapping and research methods, work as a group, use technology to solve problems and summarise and evaluate data.

Teaching staff and the Head of department conduct regular reviews of content to ensure work remains up to date in a subject where statistics and understanding are always changing. These may be as part of a learning walk or student questionnaire to assess student engagement or through reviews at departmental meetings.

Impact / Achievement

Geography is a very popular GCSE option at KS4 and numbers studying the subject have risen year on year. Students at KS3 and KS4 largely enjoy the lessons and see the relevance of the content in their lives. Staff and students have developed positive relationships allowing the content and teaching techniques to be extended and to become more progressive and challenging and this has been confirmed by a very positive student voice survey.

Beyond KS4, uptake at A Level is high with many choosing to continue their studies at local sixth forms. There is a high level of pupil engagement and a large proportion of students go on to achieve strong results in this subject area.

Delivery

	Autum 1	Autum 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Y5	Local Geography	Mountains	Eastern Europe	Cities (Urbanisation)	Ecosystems	Angry Earth (Volcanoes/Earthquakes)
Y6	Map Skills	It's your planet - environmentalism	Trade and Economics	Conflict shaping Geography/UK Geography	UK Geography	World Geography - Comparison
Y7	Map Skills	Rainforest	Settlement	Climate Change	Climate Change/UK	UK Weather and Climate

					Weather and Climate	
Y8	Coasts	Extreme Environments	Tourism	Natural Hazards	Natural Hazards/Fragile Environments	Fragile Environments
Y9	Africa	Development Gap	Energy	Population	Population/Russia	Russia
Y10	P1 - The Challenge of Natural Hazards	P1 - The Challenge of Natural Hazards/ P1 - The Living World	P1 - The Living World/ P1 - Rivers	P1 - Rivers/P1 - Coasts	P2 - Urban Issues and Challenges	P2 - Urban Issues and Challenges/Changing Economic World
Y11	P2 - Changing Economic World/Challenge of Resource Management	P2 - Challenge of Resource Management	P3 - Geographical Skills/Fieldwork	P3 - Pre-Release		