At KS3 we give our students the opportunity to develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of Physical and Human Geography. Looking into the complexities of people and their interaction with the environment we encourage our pupils to develop a wide range of practical skill, critical thinking and independent learning.

YEAR 7

Curriculum Content

- Map skills - knowing the best way to go.
- Using maps to investigate connectivity.
- Our growing population - is there enough room?
- How rivers work - the impact on lives.

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/UNDERSTANDING

A. Skills

- Basic place knowledge - UK and World map.
- Basic map and mapped data interpretation skills.
- Techniques used to investigate Geographical observations.
- Basic graphical skills including, line, bar and pie charts with population pyramids and annotated diagrams.
- Interpretation skills including photographs, satellite images, OS map extracts, newspaper articles and data from internet sites.
- Practical fieldwork skills including data collection analysis and interpretation.
- Debate and presentation skills including the use of GIS.

B. Knowledge/understanding

- Population change and the effect this is having in various parts of the world.
- Movement of populations and current issues associated with migration.
- Characteristics and features of river systems.
- The work of rivers and how the create land forms.
- How rivers impact on our environment and how we respond.

Assessment Opportunities

- Homework exercises.
- Short enquiry based projects.
- Oral work and group presentation.
- Short written assessment and end of year examination.

Fieldwork Activity

- Locally based environmental assessment activity.
- Fieldwork Trip to Malham Cove, North Yorkshire in preparation for Year 8.

YEAR 8

Curriculum Content

- Limestone in Yorkshire - what scenery?
- Living spaces and how we fill them.
- Climate and weather - across Europe and the UK.
- Coasts - why do we love them?

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/UNDERSTANDING

A. Skills

- Use of atlases, OS maps, aerial photographs and annotation skills.
- Graphical skills including the use and interpretation of compound line and bar graphs, and choropleth maps.
- Use of basic statistical techniques in data analysis, including mead mode median, interquartile range.
- Presentation of data on maps developing use of GIS.
- Use of synoptic charts.
- Fieldwork skills including data collection, sketching and surveys.

B. Knowledge/understanding

- Limestone formation and associated landforms found in North Yorkshire.
- Issues linked to the use of limestone areas in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.
- Urban environments, their growth and development - why Wakefield?
- Examples of urban redevelopment schemes – has Wakefield got it right?
- Climatic patterns including atmospheric pressure systems and types of rainfall.
- Characteristics of the coastline and the work of the sea.
- Management of coastal environments.

Assessment Opportunities

- Homework exercises.
- Short enquiry based projects.
- Oral work and group presentations.
- Short written assessments and end of year examinations.

Fieldwork Activity

Fieldwork trip to Flamborough/Filey, North Yorkshire to look at coastal processes and human interactions.

YEAR 9

Curriculum Content

- An introduction to Biomes.
- Plate tectonics and associated hazards around the world.
- Current development issues including the issues surrounding global inequality.
- The climate change debate.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND UNDERSTANDING

Skills

- Interpretation of maps at a variety of scales.
- Advanced graphical and cartographical display techniques and their appropriate use.
- Interpretation of data and data manipulation skills including a range of more advanced statistical techniques.
- Fieldwork skills – the construction and use of questionnaires.
- Analysis of data and material from a variety of sources, to encourage a synoptic approach.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- The principles of plate tectonics.
- A comparison of hazards caused by earthquakes and/or volcanoes around the world.
- How the human response to hazards varies.
- Global inequality – the growing poverty gap and how it is being addressed at a global level.
- Issues relating to development, trade and aid – can we help ourselves and others?
- The basics of global warming and climate change debate.
- The characteristics of a selection of biomes and an investigation into their complexity.

Assessment Opportunities

- Homework exercises.
- Project based investigations and presentations.
- Extended writing tasks.
- Group work and debate.
- End of year examination.

Fieldwork Activity

Fieldwork studies in an urban environment – regeneration and redevelopment in Manchester (Salford Quays) in preparation for Year 10.