**Geography Department**

The geography department aims to provide a contemporary and engaging learning experience for our students. One where enquiry is embedded into our curriculum and student resilience is promoted. Students are provided with a balanced curriculum that supports the catholic ethos of St Joseph’s College.

**The Curriculum**

**Key Stage 3**

Geography is a compulsory subject at KS3 and students have 3 hours of geography learning each fortnight.

Our curriculum fulfils the national curriculum (2014) and is based around students developing the following:

**Locational knowledge**

Students extend their locational knowledge and deepen their spatial awareness of the world’s countries using maps of the world to focus on Africa, Russia, Asia (including China and India), and the Middle East, focusing on their environmental regions, including polar and hot deserts, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities.

**Place Knowledge**

Students understand geographical similarities, differences and links between places through the study of human and physical geography of a region within Africa, and of a region within

Asia.

**Human and physical geography**

Students understand, through the use of detailed place-based exemplars at a variety of scales, the key processes in:

Physical geography relating to: geological timescales and plate tectonics; rocks, weathering and soils; weather and climate, including the change in climate from the Ice Age to the present; and glaciation, hydrology and coasts.

Human geography relating to: population and urbanisation; international development; economic activity in the primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary sectors; and the use of natural resources.

Understand how human and physical processes interact to influence, and change landscapes, environments and the climate; and how human activity relies on effective functioning of natural systems.

**Geographical skills and fieldwork**

Build on their knowledge of globes, maps and atlases and apply and develop this knowledge routinely in the classroom and in the field.

Interpret Ordnance Survey maps in the classroom and the field, including using grid references and scale, topographical and other thematic mapping, and aerial and satellite photographs.

Use Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to view, analyse and interpret places and data

Use fieldwork in contrasting locations to collect, analyse and draw conclusions from geographical data, using multiple sources of increasingly complex information.

Students will be formally assessed at the end of each unit of work. They will assess a full range of skills, knowledge and understanding ensuring that students are ready for the demands and rigor of the GCSE specification.

**St Joseph’s College KS3 Geography – Curriculum Overview:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year 7** | **Year 8** | **Year 9** |
| Place and geographical skills | Population Change and Development | Weather and Climate Change |
| Ecosystems and Tropical Rainforests | Glacial UK Landscapes, Processes and Management | Resource Management – Energy |
| Human Features of the UK | Rivers Landscapes, Processes and Management | Urban Issues and Challenges |
| Tectonic Hazards | Cold Environments | N10 Begins |

Sustainability is a key theme throughout all topics, as is the development of key skills.

**Key Stage 4**

We deliver the AQA A specification for GCSE. The link to the website can be followed for access to a full specification, past papers and exam mark schemes.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035>

Students have to complete a balance of human and physical geography topics as well as continuing to develop and improve skills developed at KS3.

The course structure below highlights the topics we deliver in school and provides information on assessment.

Fieldwork remains an integral and assessed part of student learning and fieldtrips are made available to all students studying geography.



**Key Stage 5**

The AQA specification is delivered for A ‘level. It provides an excellent transition from GCSE to the new demands of A ‘level.

The core themes and concepts of the geography curriculum remain along with some new concepts and geographical theory. Students are facilitated to deepen their knowledge, understanding and skill.

Follow the link for the AQA website where the specification, past papers and mark schemes can be accessed.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/as-and-a-level/geography-7037>

The course structure for the A ‘level is below along with information on assessment. The optional topics taught in school are underlined in red.

