



Cardinal
Newman
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Geograpgy Department

Welcome to the Geography Department

Why study Geography?

Geography is a broad-based academic degree which is well respected by employers. Geography graduates have one of the highest rates of graduate employment post-university entering a wide range of careers which include the Foreign Office, the diplomatic service; the Rivers Authority; the Met Office, the Environment Agency, town planning; transport management; politics and even law.

The department is part of the Humanities Faculty which also includes History and is led by Mrs. Thoulass (Head of Faculty). We have 5 specialist Geography staff – Mrs. Archer (Geography Lead); Mrs. Chauhan; Mrs. Hutcheson; Miss. Hall and Miss. Kyeremaa. All are committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for our students. Geography is a popular subject at CNS with a good uptake at both KS4 and KS5. With a proven track record of good results at both GCSE and A Level, we are keen to sustain the high levels of achievement across the department and look forward to welcoming a new intake of students come September.

Key Stage 3

The Geography department deliver an exciting and engaging Key Stage 3 course for Cardinal Newman students. With a blend of both human and physical topics, students develop a detailed awareness of the world around them and their place and impact on the local, national and global environment. The course is designed to embed and develop the literacy and numeracy skills required for GCSE should the students decide to pursue the subject at Key Stage 4. Our overall aim is to use the Geography curriculum to provide our students with highly transferable skills that will fully equip them for further study but also for their future in the modern employment market. An overview of the curriculum is outlined below:

Together towards our Lord through learning, love and faith



YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9
The Year 7 curriculum covers the following units: • Geographical skills • Rocks, weathering & soils • Hydrology (Rivers) • Coasts • Glaciation • Key locations (Russia, China and the Middle East)	The Year 8 curriculum covers the following units: • Weather & Climate • Focus on Africa • Influencing the environment • Tectonics • Development • Fieldwork	The Year 9 curriculum covers the following units: • Population • Urbanisation • Economic activity • Contrasting Regions • Global Biomes: Ecosystems • Global Biomes: Tropical Rainforests
The units in Year 7 focus on skills and physical Geography. They link well to those on the GCSE specification providing a basic understanding of key geographical concepts. Within the curriculum, students will be able to develop an understanding of physical processes and landforms that shape our landscape. Students can also develop their map, photo, and data interpretation skills.	The units in Year 8 focus on geographical themes at a variety of scales. Students are given the opportunity to explore topical issues such as climate change but also complex processes such as tectonics. Students will have the opportunity to develop their place knowledge by studying the continents of Africa and changing world cities with a focus on the inequality that exists globally. The skills focus on how to develop and structure their extended writing using P-E-E-L paragraphing but also how to plan and execute a geography fieldwork enquiry	The units in Year 9 are designed to help students develop their understanding of the key concepts and geographical skills they will cover at GCSE. This enables them to make an informed choice about whether they wish to continue with the subject at KS4 details of which are provided overleaf.

Key Stage 4

The GCSE AQA course builds upon the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in Years 7 - 9. As well as covering traditional geography topics such as river landscapes; coastal landscapes and ecosystems, the course also includes contemporary topics such as urbanisation, sustainability and economic change. This course gives students opportunities to:

- Develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts and appreciate the relevance of these concepts to our changing world
- Develop a framework of spatial awareness in which to appreciate the importance of place location (whether local or global)
- Appreciate the differences and similarities in people's views of the world and its environments, societies and cultures
- Understand the significance of values and attitudes to the development and resolution of world issues
- Develop their responsibility as global citizens and recognise how they can contribute to a future that is both sustainable and inclusive

Fieldwork

The best way to explore Geographical concepts is out in the field. Towards the end of Year 10, GCSE students will attend a compulsory field study. This will include a physical component relating to the coasts topic and a human component relating to the economic impact of tourism. The field study gives students a chance to collect primary and secondary data that they can use to prove or disprove a testable hypothesis. The knowledge and experience gained from the study helps to develop student's enquiry skills whilst also enabling them to answer the fieldwork component of the GCSE exam.