



## GEOGRAPHY

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**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:

### YEAR 7

The Year 7 curriculum covers the following units:

- **Geographical skills (map skills)**
- **Landscape processes**
- **UK physical landscape**
- **The people of the UK**
- **Weather & climate in the UK**
- **Work, rest and play in the UK**

The units in Year 7 focus on the Geography of the UK. 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 the country in which they live, the physical processes and landforms that shape our landscape and the demographic trends which characterise our current population. Students can also develop their map, photo and data interpretation skills.

### YEAR 8

The Year 8 curriculum covers the following units:

- **Global Issues (Climate Change)**
- **Focus on Africa**
- **Contrasting nations**
- **Our Physical World (Tectonics)**
- **Our Unequal World**
- **World Cities**

The Year 8 units focus on global geographical themes. 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.

### YEAR 9

The Year 9 curriculum focuses on two units which are covered in more depth:

- **Global Biomes (with a particular focus on tropical rainforests and the polar/tundra environment)**
- **Resource Management (with a particular focus on energy, water and food)**

The units are designed to help students develop the key geographical skills they will require at GCSE with particular focus on writing an evaluative response to a geographical issue.



**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

#### **DO STUDENTS GET TO DO FIELDWORK?**

Yes...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.



#### **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.

#### **WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT LIKE?**

The department has 3 experienced staff (see overleaf) with a mix of human and physical geography specialisms. We are all committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for our students. Geography is a popular subject at the school 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.