



The Humanities, MFL and Social Sciences Faculty

Geography

Subject Intent:

At St Thomas More Catholic Academy & Sixth Form College the Geography department aims to engage pupils' curiosity to investigate the world we live in. Pupils deepen their knowledge and understanding of the links between the environment and the society on a local and global scale. We focus on the core ideas of space, interdependence, human and physical processes, environmental impacts, sustainable development and cultural diversity.

Teaching will equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and physical and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.

The study of geography will develop pupils' responsibility to become stewards of the world, created by God, in which they live.

Course Overview:

Key stage 3:

Year 7

- What is a geographer?
- How do we use our planet as a natural resource?
- What is an ecosystem and where are they found?
- What is an economy?
- Is the geography of Russia a curse or benefit?

Year 8

- Is it safe to live near a volcano or a fault line for earthquakes?
- What is development?
- What is weather and climate?
- One planet: how are populations changing?
- Why are rivers so important?
- How is Asia being transformed?

Year 9

- What are the challenges and opportunities facing Africa?
- How does ice change the world?
- Why is the Middle East an important world region?
- What happens where the land meets the sea? & What is coastal management?
- Climate change and the Earth's future?

Key stage 4:

Physical Geography

- The challenge of natural hazards.
- Physical landscapes in the UK.
- The living world.

Human Geography

- Urban issues and challenges.
- The changing economic world.
- The challenge of resource management.

Key stage 5:

Physical landscape systems - coastal landscape systems

Earth-life support systems - water and carbon cycles

Human Interactions - changing spaces & making places, global connections(migration)

Geographical debates - Hazardous Earth & Climate Change

Investigative geography- Students carry out an independent investigation into an area of particular interest to them, related to any aspect of the specification. They produce a written report of around 3000 to 4000 words.

Course Detail:

A list the key content students will cover, broken down into these headings

GCSE Exam Board: AQA(8035)

GCSE Unit List: Physical Geography, Human Geography, Geographical Applications and Skills

Paper 1: Living with the Physical environment

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPaG))
- 35% of GCSE

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG)
- 35% of GCSE

Paper 3:

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 76 marks (including 6 marks for SPaG)
- 30% of GCSE
- Pre-release resources booklet made available 12 weeks before Paper 3 exam

Enrichment Opportunities

School Environmental Projects

Year 7-9 Local opportunities such as the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham

Year 10 &11-Fieldwork; Rivers-Carding Mill Valley Shropshire, Nuneaton

Year 12-Swanage

Year 12-Iceland(to be announced)

Useful links

KS3:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zrw76sq>

GCSE:

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zy3ptyc>