

Geography

*The Geography Department of St Thomas More Catholic School aims to develop **well rounded** geographers who are **inquisitive** about the subject and the modern evolving world. We aim for all students to **enjoy** the subject, see its **purpose** in their lives and strive to **fulfill their full potential**.*

Key Stage 3 and 4

The Geography Department curriculum has been built around the following Key Concepts that students need to grasp, develop and explore throughout their learning journey:

Place	Systems and Processes	Cause and Impact	Management
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In Key Stage 3 we aim to establish the basic knowledge, understanding and skills of a broad curriculum that has a balance of physical and human geography content. We aim for students to grasp the physical processes and factors that influence and change landscapes. We will then link this knowledge and understanding to the implications of this on the human environment. In addition we will study a variety of human developments, understanding their applications to the world today and in our future. Our curriculum is based on the progressive development of knowledge, deepening throughout each of the individual years.

Over the course of the three years they will also journey across the world. In Year 7 there is a focus at the beginning of the year to study the place most familiar to them - the UK, and then later in term 1 there is a focus on Asia for the rest of the year. In Year 8 we explore Africa and South America, developing an understanding of the links and interrelationships between physical and human 'topics' to gain a deeper understanding. In Year 9 we conclude with exploring the Pacific Ocean, the Arctic and Antarctica. The design of our curriculum is not simply to explore the world, but carefully considered to develop students' knowledge of places, their understanding of different environments and exploring geography that is new to them.

The table below shows you the topics pupils will study throughout Key Stage 3:

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Year 7	UK Geography Rivers	Global Population and Resources	Global Change
Year 8	Coasts Development and the gap in development	Environmental Geography	UK weather Climatic Hazards
Year 9	Tectonics including volcanoes Tourism (mass and extreme)	Contrasting environments Growing Cities	Earthquakes in water and on land Reducing the development gap The challenges of Resource Management

Key Stage 4: Year 10 and Year 11

Having developed their knowledge of the key concepts throughout Key Stage 3, the aim of Key Stage 4 is to ensure that students are able to apply their understanding of these concepts to allow them to analyse and evaluate issues in both the dynamic physical and human world, albeit at different rates of change. In this GCSE course students will be exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs), giving them a breadth of knowledge. Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use, whilst also studying the dynamic physical landscapes of our planet and the exploitation of resources. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes, carefully coming to their own opinions. There is an underlying theme of sustainable management, which encourages students to think carefully about various strategies, evaluating them to make judgments, articulating these. There is also a focus on decision making and fieldwork experiences that develops well rounded geographers, who have studied their local area, as well as wider afield and can demonstrate a range of skills on their learning journey.

The table below shows you the topics pupils will study throughout Key Stage 4:

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Year 10	The challenge of Resource Management UK Landscapes - Rivers and Coasts	Urban Issues and challenges	Fieldwork The Living World - Tropical Rainforests and cold environments
Year 11	Familiar and Unfamiliar Fieldwork The challenge of natural hazards	The changing economic world	Issue Evaluation Terminal exams preparation

Key Stage 5

Students studying Geography Key Stage 5 will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE, developing their ability to apply and assess geographical issues. This course has been chosen as it develops young geographers' minds, challenges their perceptions and stimulates their investigative and analytical skills.

The selected units in this course are relevant to the world that we live in today and entice our students' into thinking about the complexities of the modern world. The breadth of the topics, along with the students' own choice of their field investigation, provide a broad and balanced curriculum, preparing them well for their next steps in education or training.

The table below shows you the topics pupils will study throughout Key Stage 5:

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Year 12	Coastal systems and landscapes Changing Places	Water and Carbon Cycles Population and the environment	Water and Carbon Cycles Fieldwork (NEA) Population and the Environment
Year 13	Population and the Environment Hazards Global systems and governance	Hazards Global systems and governance	Terminal exams preparation