RGS
NEWCASTLE

INTRODUCTION TO

GEOGRAPHY

at RGS













Geography at RGS gives students an informed understanding of the world around them. Through a broad range of physical and human geography topics, students are challenged to think about local, national and global issues; their causes, consequences and crucially, the action that can be taken to mitigate and solve problems.

Geography helps RGS students make sense of an increasingly interconnected world by exploring the relationships between people, landscapes and the environment. Students examine some of the most significant challenges facing society today, from climate change and natural hazards to urbanisation, sustainability and global development.

The subject encourages students to think independently, evaluate evidence and consider different perspectives while developing valuable skills in research, analysis and communication.

From Year 7 to Year 13, students are encouraged to investigate geographical issues both inside and beyond the classroom, preparing them for further study and a wide range of future careers.



YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8

In Years 7 and 8, students follow an engaging curriculum that introduces many of the key themes and issues shaping our world today. Through a mixture of physical and human geography, students develop their understanding of places, environments and societies whilst building important skills in mapwork, data analysis, enquiry and presentation.

In Year 7, students begin by exploring some of the world's most remarkable landscapes and environments, including the Grand Canyon, the Great Barrier Reef, Antarctica, the Sahara Desert and the volcanoes of Indonesia. They then investigate the landscapes, weather, climate and settlements of the British Isles, before studying the River Indus and its importance to communities in Pakistan. Later in the year, students examine the global fashion industry, considering issues of sustainability and ethics, before exploring population growth, urbanisation and the challenges of creating sustainable cities.

In Year 8, students explore global development and inequality, undertaking an independent investigation into the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. They then study rainforest ecosystems and their importance to both local communities and the wider world, before examining migration, climate change, energy resources and the rapidly changing Arctic environment.























YEAR 9 to YEAR 11

In Year 9, students begin studying AQA GCSE Geography, investigating natural hazards, including earthquakes, volcanoes and plate tectonics, before exploring resource management, food security and weather hazards such as tropical storms and extreme weather events in the UK.

In Year 10, students who choose to continue Geography study physical and human geography with the practical skills required to investigate real-world issues through fieldwork and data analysis.

In Year 10, students investigate climate change, exploring the evidence for a changing climate, its causes and the strategies being used to manage its impacts. They then study ecosystems, tropical rainforests and hot deserts before examining urbanisation through detailed case studies of Lagos and Newcastle upon Tyne. The year concludes with the study of river landscapes, including fluvial processes, landforms and flood management. Fieldwork in Newcastle city centre provides students with valuable experience of collecting and analysing primary geographical data.

In Year 11, students explore global development and economic change through the study of Nigeria as an emerging economy and the changing UK economy. They also investigate resource management, focusing on the challenges of securing sustainable supplies of food, water and energy for a growing global population. Students undertake river fieldwork to collect and evaluate primary data before completing a comprehensive revision programme in preparation for their examinations.



YEAR 12 & YEAR 13

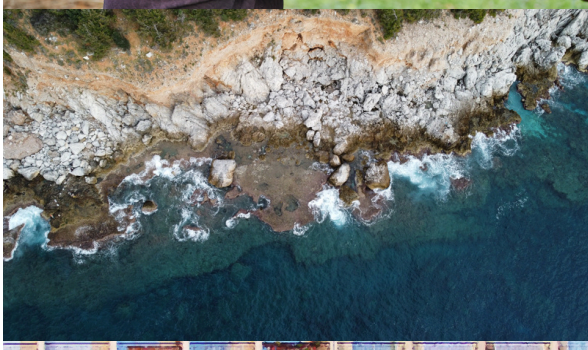
At A-Level, students follow the Cambridge International A-Level Geography specification, a rigorous and highly respected course that provides an excellent foundation for university study and future careers. Students develop a deeper understanding of the complex relationships between people, places and environments whilst strengthening their analytical, evaluative and independent research skills.

In Year 12, students investigate topics across both human and physical geography, including atmospheric processes and global climate change, urbanisation and urban management, plate tectonics and mass movement hazards. Through the study of these contemporary issues, students gain a detailed understanding of the processes shaping both the natural environment and human societies.

In Year 13, students build on this foundation through the study of coastal environments, examining coastal processes, landforms, coral reef ecosystems and coastal management. They also explore the geography of disease, investigating the spatial patterns, transmission, impacts and management of diseases including influenza, cholera and malaria. These topics encourage students to evaluate complex global issues and consider the ways in which physical and human factors interact at a range of scales.

Fieldwork remains a central feature of Sixth Form Geography, providing opportunities for students to apply classroom learning in real-world environments. Geography is a popular choice at A-Level and many students progress to study Geography, Environmental Science and related disciplines at leading universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. The subject also provides an excellent foundation for careers in environmental management, planning, sustainability, business, international development and many other fields.





















BRINGING GEOGRAPHY TO LIFE

Geography is a subject best explored through investigation, observation and first-hand experience. Lessons at RGS combine digital technologies, mapping, photography, research and discussion to help students develop a deeper understanding of geographical issues and processes.

Students are encouraged to take an active role in their learning through enquiry, independent research and presentation. Our experienced teachers use a wide variety of teaching methods, from fieldwork and photographic analysis to digital mapping and classroom discussion, ensuring lessons are engaging, challenging and relevant to the modern world.

Fieldwork forms an integral part of Geography at RGS, allowing students to apply classroom learning in real-world settings while developing the practical skills used by professional geographers.



CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

In Year 7 & 8, students visit the Northumbrian coastline to investigate glaciated landscapes and explore the effects of erosion and deposition as well as studying limestone landscapes and cave systems. Year 7 & 8 students are welcome at our well attended 'Geography Club'.

GCSE students undertake fieldwork in locations including Hexham and the Durham Dales, developing the techniques required to collect and analyse primary geographical data.

Sixth Form students benefit from further fieldwork opportunities in locations such as the Northumberland coast, York and the Lake District, studying issues including river processes, flooding, glaciation, urban change and coastal management.

The department also offers a range of international opportunities. Regular overseas visits include a Sixth Form expedition to Iceland, exploring volcanic landscapes, glaciers, rivers and settlement patterns and a trip to Morocco to study arid environments.

We also arrange a variety of expert talks from leading academics in the subject.

These experiences bring geographical concepts to life, deepen students' understanding and inspire a lasting interest in the subject.









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Whether it's exploring the world's great landscapes in Year 7, investigating climate change at GCSE, or studying glaciers and volcanoes in Iceland during the Sixth Form, Geography at RGS offers a journey of discovery, challenge and exploration.

If you would like further information about Geography at RGS please contact Mrs Roz Laws, Head of Geography via r.laws@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

