

## **Geography Curriculum Statement 2022-23**

### **Geography Intent Statement**

In Geography we aim to develop students' enthusiasm for the dynamic world in which they live. We study a variety of topical topics at different scales to develop local, national and global citizens that have an awareness of current events and the impact that they have on our ever changing world. Our curriculum has been chosen to ensure all pupils, regardless of their special educational needs or disabilities, social disadvantage or academic ability, are equipped with knowledge about current issues facing the world around us, while also ensuring all students are taught the Geographical Skills they need for the future. Our intent is that all pupils know more and remember more. The Geography department recognises the importance of building the cultural capital of all of our students and have designed the curriculum in order to do so.

It is our intention to ensure that the Geography curriculum inspires students to be curious and have a fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Teaching equips students with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. As students' progress through Cowley, their growing knowledge about the world helps them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. Geographical knowledge, understanding and skills provide the framework and approaches that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time. Students will be able to apply their understanding to new situations.

### **Geography Implementation Statement**

All students are taught the same curriculum, regardless of their special educational needs or disabilities, social disadvantage or academic ability.

At the beginning of Year 7 students complete a baseline assessment in Geography based on National Curriculum content for Key Stage 1 and 2. This enables us to consolidate previous knowledge and skills. Many units taught in Years 7-9, KS 3, are taught via place studies, to develop spatial awareness at a variety of locations and scales. These units of study are designed to ensure the National Curriculum is delivered in depth and breadth. Units of study reflect current events and changes are made to keep the subject 'live'. For example, the Indonesian earthquake unit reflects the 9 earthquakes the country experienced in 2018. Pupils in Year 9 can select an extension opportunity in Geography. This enables

students to study in greater depth, building their skills and knowledge within the KS 3 framework. The aim is to build additional expertise in Geography which will ultimately allow rapid progress to be made in KS 4.

At KS4 and A level we follow the AQA specification, to ensure a smooth transition. For those students joining Cowley at the beginning of the A Level course we provide an induction programme to ensure they have the required knowledge to bring them up to speed. The induction programme has also benefited students who have successfully completed the A Level course, without following the normal progression path of studying GCSE Geography.

For the A Level course, different units of work are taught using the same place case studies to add depth to student knowledge.

All students are taught Geographical skills throughout all years. These skills are revisited in new situations to develop students' applied understanding. There are plenty of opportunities to develop numeracy skills in classwork and fieldwork. Literacy skills are also developed with plenty of opportunities for reading and extended writing.

In Geography we use a range of different teaching and learning strategies to ensure all students are challenged, engaged and enjoy Geography lessons. These include; fieldwork and decision making activities. We regularly use clips and articles from news broadcasts to ensure students have a current and engaging Geography curriculum.

Homework is set once a fortnight at KS3 and once a week at KS4 and A Level. A range of activities are set to support classwork, help students make progress and encourage independent study.

All assessments for KS 3, KS 4 and A level ensure students are tested on prior knowledge. Students will have made progress by "learning more and remembering more". There are plenty of opportunities to develop students' recall through a variety of 'Geog your memory' activities such as quiz's; knowledge organisers and elaborative interrogation activities.

### **Geography Beyond the Classroom**

Fieldwork is an integral part of the Geography department. All students in KS3 have the opportunity to take part in on-site fieldwork and fieldwork in the local woodland. Investigations include the college microclimate, surveying the learning environment and surveying the vegetation on green spaces.

There are two compulsory days of fieldwork at KS4. A Human Geography investigation on housing and employment in St Helens and a Physical Geography investigation on Formby sand dunes.

In Year 12 there are four compulsory fieldtrips. These visits will equip the students with the skills needed to plan and carry out their own fieldwork and independent coursework. Locations visited include a salt marsh on the Southport coast to investigate vegetation succession, St Helens Town Centre to look at clone towns and the local area around Cowley to investigate socio-economic factors.

A Level students have the opportunity to take part in Geography lectures from the University of Aberystwyth; topics include sustainability.

### **Subject Expertise**

The Geography department comprises four full time specialist teachers each with their own expertise and interests. All are enthusiastic about Geography and keep up to date with current events. The department subscribes to the Geography Review and we regularly access articles and resources from the Royal Geographical Society and Geographical Association websites.

Staff regularly participate on Geographical forums to share ideas with colleagues in other schools.

Two members of the team are GCSE examination marker for AQA.

There has been a growth in the number of staff teaching A Level, with two members in each year group.

The Head of Department regularly attends local network meetings to share good practice and leads teaching and learning sessions on delivering GCSE.

### **Destinations**

Year 7 students arrive at Cowley with varied experiences of Geography. The Geography department has provided training to one feeder school on delivering fieldwork to Year 5, we hope to expand this to more feeder schools.

At KS 3 the National Curriculum is delivered. The AQA specification is taught at KS 4 and A Level. Throughout all Key Stages units of work have been designed so that there is progression in knowledge and skills.

Links are made to the world of work throughout all year groups. There are homework tasks linked to careers related to Geography in KS 3. At KS 4 students look at the new employment opportunities in the NW in the Post-Industrial Economy of the UK unit. Year 8 students have benefited from a guest speaker talking about her positive experiences of studying Geography and the benefits this has brought her in the workplace.

Many of our A Level students continue to study Geography or related subjects at University, for example Human Geography, Geohazards, Geophysics and International Relations.

### **Impacts**

- The Geography 3 year KS3 curriculum guarantees a broad and balanced curriculum for all our students in line with the requirements of the National Curriculum.
- All students receive the same curriculum offer, regardless of pathway, ability or their social background.
- Progress is measure by all pupils knowing more and remembering more.
- Student voice comments are very supportive of the Geography department.
- Many A Level students continue to study Geography or related subjects at University.
- Attainment and progress continues to improve at KS4.
- Attainment and progress is outstanding at A Level.