

Geography

Rationale of curriculum

Geography at Parmiter's is taught to ensure young people are fully prepared with transferable skills, knowledge and understanding to make sense of their world and to face the challenges that will shape our future societies and environments at local, national and global scales.

The courses studied at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 are designed to be forward-thinking and stimulate an interest in, and a sense of wonder about, human and natural places. We want to help young people understand our dynamic and rapidly changing world. It is not just about where places are and more about how places and landscapes evolve, how people and their environment interact and how a diverse range of economies, societies and environments are interconnected.

The core themes that run across KS3 and KS4 are to reflect the Assessment Objectives from GCSE exam boards:

- *“places, processes, environments and different scales*
- *geographical understanding of: concepts and how they are used in relation to places, environments and processes; the interrelationships between places, environments and processes*
- *understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues to make judgements*
- *select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings”*

At Key Stage 3, students are taught in mixed ability classes. The course includes map skills, tectonics, ecosystems, settlement, development, environmental degradation, sustainability, rivers, British Isles, weather and climate, tourism, population and migration. Students undertake studies into countries at different regional, national and global scales.

The theory is reinforced by field trips. At Key Stage 3, students currently enjoy trips to Whipsnade Zoo, which supports a unit of work on tropical rainforests, biodiversity and conservation and the London Aquarium to complement the unit of work on oceanography and marine conservation.

Geography is a very popular option at GCSE and classes are taught in mixed ability. Students study elements of the physical environment such as coasts, rivers, geology, UK Changing Landscapes, glaciation, climate change as well as elements of the human environment such as population, changing cities, economic change, sustainable development, water issues and resource management. Students also develop key map, graphical and enquiry skills. The course includes a compulsory fieldtrip to reinforce learning from the classroom and allow for data collection to prepare for the skills based assessment questions in their examinations.

The department also runs optional residential trips that further supplement students' learning and broaden their geographical experiences. In recent years, these have included trips to Iceland, Italy, Wales, Swanage, London and the Alps.