

Okehampton College



Geography Schemes of Work 2020-2021

The Geography Team are highly skilled, experienced geographers who have used their own global travel, life experience, prior careers and educational backgrounds to shape a relevant and challenging curriculum. The geography team are known for their positive relationships with staff and students alike and this rapport is brought into the classroom where our strong classroom culture is used to inspire and embed geographical knowledge.

The curriculum we deliver is never the same year on year. We are updating and improving our lessons to reflect changing global issues and new geographical knowledge but we also pride ourselves on our commitment to continuously improving our teaching practice. As a team we work hard to ensure our lessons are delivered in the most effective way: being a platform for developing richer knowledge.

This year we have reviewed our curriculum following our 2018/19 exams analysis, lockdown learning assessments (Sept 2020) and under the 'decolonising the curriculum' movement. This has resulted in an increased emphasis on geographical skills at Key Stage 3 and the introduction of two new units in Year 9, Extreme Earth and Africa, to give our students a broader and more complex understanding of the world. Through our commitment to our pedagogy and to improve progress for our SEND students we are also implementing a dual-coded curriculum, embedding some key principles such as icons, powerpoint templates and knowledge organisers. This is aimed at reducing the cognitive load of our pupils, improving processing, retention and literacy.

What is learnt in our classrooms can be seen in our Curriculum Overviews, which show the composite aspects of learning per half term, whereas the Curriculum Components detail the outcomes our students will learn. Geographical skills (mathematics, graphicacy and cartographic) are embedded throughout all key stages and is now explicitly taught in Year 7 alongside locational knowledge. Our Geographical vocabulary is not only developed through written work, but also verbally by using Okehampton College's 'No opt-out' tool, where students cannot say 'I don't know' to a question, returning to that student to develop their knowledge and confidence in discussion. At Key Stage 4 we consistently deliver exam skills (metacognition, developing points, essay structure and revision techniques) alongside our curriculum which supports students across the College. In line with cognitive science, we have adopted a 'spiral curriculum' approach where a topic in Y7 will form the knowledge 'building blocks' to support their learning of the same topic at Key Stage 4; due to our popularity at A Level we have even developed this for areas of Key Stage 5 with 'Superpowers' being a topic in Year 9.

During the lockdown in 2021, the Geography Team worked hard to ensure all our students continued to receive a high quality education in line with our vision. Remote Learning required us to implement a number of 'stop' lessons, where we reviewed prior remote learning live. These lessons involved high frequency low stakes quizzes and re-teaching of some key concepts. As we took this time to reflect and embed remote learning, you may find that students are a few lessons behind the scheduled overview.

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