Holmer Green Senior School

Geography

2026-27

Curriculum Intent

Work Hard, Be Kind, Have Passion

Our curriculum intent is to have an ambitious and inclusive curriculum, that empowers our students to become life-long learners and successful global citizens. We want our Geography students to be globally and locally aware, inquisitive thinkers, compassionate members of society equipped with 21st century skills and responsible and sustainable planet inhabitants.

At KS3 aim to promote curiosity about, and passion for, the world. The curriculum has been designed to take students on a learning journey to help them understand the world in the past, present and future. Through the lens of nine key geographical concepts, studying across KS3 will enable students to successfully know, think, and work like a geographer.

At KS4 we follow the AQA GCSE Geography specification which enables a variety of teaching and learning approaches. This exciting and relevant course studies geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigates the link between them.

At KS5 students develop their knowledge of places, processes and environments at both a local and a global scale through following the A Level Geography programme of study. The curriculum enables students to progress from studying concrete examples to theoretical understanding; to being able to move beyond their own experiences; and to being able to draw conclusions on a range of scales – local regional, national and international. Students will devise their own fieldwork programme, exploring a chosen issue, collecting data and using this to reach a well-reasoned conclusion. Through a well-sequenced curriculum, we intend to embed knowledge and skills that challenge all learners.

HGSS Curriculum Map

Year 7 Geography

Exam Board: N/A			• **Careers:** Cartographer, Climate Change Analyst, Climatologist, Emergency Management Specialist, Geomorphologist, Geospatial analyst, GIS specialist, Hydrologist.		**Co-Curricular:**		**Sequencing: Year 8 – topic links – Year 9 – topic links – GCSE – foundation knowlegde of economy, climate and resources, A Level transferable skills**	
	Autumn 1 **What is a Geographer?**	**Autumn 2** **What is a Geographer?** **Earth' Natural Resources**	**Spring 1** **Earth's Natural Resources** **What is an Economy?**	**AP1**	**Spring 2** **What is an Economy?**	**Summer 1** **What is weather and climate?**	**Summer 2** **What is weather and climate?** **Fieldwork**	**AP2**
Content	• The history of Geography and mapping • A Geographers toolkit • Locational knowledge (global/UK) • Sense of place development • OS mapping	• The Earth's spheres and how they interact • How rocks and soils form and their importance to life • How each sphere provide natural resources • Sustainable resource use	• Economic activities and what they are like at different scales, from local to global • The range of jobs people do and how jobs have changed over time	Key terms, knowledge, map skills, interpretation skills, judgement skills	• Economic activities and what they are like at different scales, from local to global • The range of jobs people do and how jobs have changed over time	• The concepts of weather and climate. • The elements that make up the weather and climate. • How the weather is measured.	• Microclimate or climate/skills related enquiry - fieldwork	Key terms knowledge, map skills, interpretation skills, judgement skills, presentation and extended writing skills
Skills:	Atlas mapping, OS mapping, Photographs, GIS, Numeracy, Graphicacy, Decision-making				Atlas mapping, OS mapping, Photographs, GIS, Numeracy, Graphicacy, Decision-making, Fieldwork			

HGSS Curriculum Map

Year 8 Geography

Exam Board: N/A			**Careers:** Town or Transport planning, Surveying, Conservation, Sustainability, Waste and Water management, Environmental Planning, Tourism, and Weather Forecasting.		**Co-Curricular:**		**Sequencing: Year 8 – topic links – Year 9 – topic links – GCSE – foundation knowledge of economy, climate and resources, A Level transferable skills**	
	Autumn 1 **Physical Landscapes - Rivers**	**Autumn 2** **Physical Landscapes - Rivers** **Differences in Development**	**Spring 1** **Differences in Development** **People, People, Everywhere**	**AP1**	**Spring 2** **People, People, Everywhere**	**Summer 1** **People, People, Everywhere** **Changing Places - Asia**	**Summer 2** **Changing Places Asia** **Fieldwork**	**AP2**
Content	• What rivers are and how water flows into them • How weathering, erosion and transportation create river landforms • Identifying river landforms on OS maps	• To compare development around the world. • To understand where and why inequality occurs. • To understand the actions taken by individuals, governments and communities to aid development.	• World population distribution and change. • How countries attempt to control population change. • Migration	Key terms, knowledge, map skills, interpretation skills, judgement skills	• World population distribution and change. • How countries attempt to control population change. • Migration	• Looking at the Middle East and how changes have occurred to shape the concept of place • Understanding the place and importance of Asia across the rest of the world.	• Asia's diverse physical and human geography • How Asia is a continent of dynamic change • The changing relationship between Asia and the rest of the world • Fieldwork	Key terms knowledge, map skills, interpretation skills, judgement skills, presentation and extended writing skills
Skills:	Atlas mapping, OS mapping, Photographs, GIS, Numeracy, Graphicacy, Decision-making				Atlas mapping, OS mapping, Photographs, GIS, Numeracy, Graphicacy, Decision-making			

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Year 9 Geography

Exam Board: AQA	**Careers:** Construction manager, Landscape architect, Market researcher, Nature conservation officer, Political risk analyst, Sustainability consultant and Transport planner	**Co-Curricular:**	**Sequencing: Year 8 – topic links – Year 9 – topic links – GCSE – foundation knowlegde of hazards, desertification, development and coasts - A Level transferable skills**

	Autumn 1 **Earth's Natural Hazards**	**Autumn 2** **Earth's Natural Hazards** **Exploring Africa**	**Spring 1** **Exploring Africa**	**AP1**	**Spring 2** **How has ice shaped the planet?**	**Summer 1** **How has ice shaped the planet?** **Coasts**	**Summer 2** **Coasts**	**AP2**
Content	• The theory of plate tectonics • How volcanoes and earthquakes are linked to plate tectonics • The hazards for people associated with these events	• The physical and human geography of Africa • Africa's colonial history • Some of the challenges and opportunities facing the continent	• The physical and human geography of Africa • Africa's colonial history • Some of the challenges and opportunities facing the continent	Key terms, knowledge, map skills, interpretation skills, judgement skills	• How ice changes the world • How erosion and transportation create glacial landforms • How the distribution of ice around the world changes through time.	• Processes associated with erosion, transportation and deposition at the coast. • Landforms creates by the processes of erosion and deposition.	• Coastal protection and management including hard and soft engineering strategies.	Key terms knowledge, map skills, interpretation skills, judgement skills, presentation and extended writing skills
Skills:	Atlas mapping, OS mapping, Photographs, GIS, Numeracy, Graphicacy, Decision-making				Atlas mapping, OS mapping, Photographs, GIS, Numeracy, Graphicacy, Decision-making			

HGSS Curriculum Map

Year 10 Geography

Exam Board: AQA

Careers: Architectural technologist, Business analyst, Cartographer, Data analyst, Environmental consultant, Geographical information systems officer, Marketing executive, Secondary school teacher, Social researcher, Town Planner

Co-Curricular: field work London and Bournemouth.

Sequencing:
Links to KS3 curriculum – continent studies and physical processes
Links to A Level – Hazards/Coasts/Global Systems and Governance

	Autumn 1 Challenge of Natural Hazards - Tectonics	Autumn 2 Weather Hazards and Climate Change	Spring 1 Changing Economic World	AP1	Spring 2 Nigeria and UK Economy	Summer 1 Physical Landscapes in the UK Coasts recap	Summer 2 Urban Issues and Challenges	AP2
Content	• Natural Hazards pose major risks to people and property • Tectonic hazards occur across the world distributed mainly along plate boundaries. • These events are experienced and responded to by LIC and HIG countries in contrasting ways.	• Climate Change is the result of natural and human factors and has a range of effects	• There are global variations in economic development and quality of life. • Various strategies exist for reducing the global development gap.	AQA past Exam paper based on topics studied to date	• The UK has a range of diverse landscapes. • Distinctive coastal landforms are the result of rock type, structure and physical processes.	• The UK has a range of diverse landscapes. • Distinctive coastal landforms are the result of rock type, structure and physical processes.	• A growing percentage of the world's population lives in urban areas. • Urban growth creates opportunities and challenges for cities in LICs and NEEs.	EOY Mock Exam using AQA exam questions based on topics studied to date
Skills:	Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment				Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment			

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Year 11 Geography

Exam Board: AQA

Careers: Architectural technologist, Business analyst, Cartographer, Data analyst, Environmental consultant, Geographical information systems officer, Marketing executive, Secondary school teacher, Social researcher, Town Planner

Co-Curricular: field study- Bournemouth and London

Sequencing:
KS3 – themes linked to resources/rivers/forming a judgement
A Level topic links – Coasts/Fieldwork/Population

	Autumn 1 The Challenge of Resource Management	Autumn 2 Physical Landscapes in the UK – Rivers/The Living World	Spring 1 The Living World/Fieldwork/Unseen Fieldwork	AP1	Spring 2 Issue Evaluation/Revision	Summer 1 Exam preparation	Summer 2 Examinations continue	AP2
Content	• Food, water and energy are fundamental to human development. • The changing demand and provision of resources in the UK create opportunities and challenges.	• The shape of river valleys changes as rivers flow downstream. • Distinctive fluvial landforms result from different physical processes. • Ecosystems exist at a range of scales and involve the interaction between biotic and abiotic components.	• Tropical rainforest ecosystems. • Hot desert ecosystems • Students will be expected to: • Apply knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate information and issues related to geographical enquiry..	Year 11 Mock Exam Full Paper 2 – Followed by Mini Mocks to complete Full Paper 1	• This element contributes a critical thinking and problem-solving element to the assessment structure. • A resource booklet will be available twelve weeks before the date of the exam.	• Summer exams begin		Paper 1 mock exam. Three x 30-minute assessments based on physical topics Delivered in SPR2
Skills:	Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment				Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment			

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Year 12 Geography

Exam Board: AQA

Careers: Architectural technologist, Business analyst, Cartographer, Data analyst, Environmental consultant, Geographical information systems officer, Marketing executive, Secondary school teacher, Social researcher, Town Planner

Co-Curricular:Sicily trip Easter 2025

Sequencing: GCSE – Hazsrds, po-population
KS3 – knowledge and understanding of processes and distribution of resources

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	AP1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	AP2
	• **Changing Places** • **Water and Carbon**	• **Changing Places** • **Water and Carbon**	• **Changing Places** • **Water and Carbon** • **Population and the Environment** • **Coastal Systems**		• **Population and Environment** • **Coastal Systems**	• **Population and Environment** • **Coastal Systems** • **NEA**	• **Global Systems and Governance** • **Hazards** • **NEA**	
Content **(Topic outlined in full – teaching spread across timescales above)**	**Changing Places** • The nature and importance of places • Changing places – relationships, connectives, meaning and representation • Relationships and connections • Meaning and Representation	**Water and Carbon** • The Water Cycle • The Carbon Cycle • Water, Carbon and life on earth	**Population and Environment** • Food production and food security • Global Health • Malaria • Asthma • Population changes • Migration change • Global population, the future • Case studies • Population changes in Iran • Relationships between place and health	AQA A Level Exam paper based on first 2 topics	**Coastal Systems** • Coasts as a natural system • Systems and processes • Coastal landscape development	**NEA** Independent investigation	**Hazards** • The concept of hazards in a geographical context • Plate Tectonics • Volcanic hazards • Seismic hazards • Storm hazards • Fires in nature **Global Systems** • Globalisation • Global systems • International trade and access to markets • Geographical Conflicts • The 'global commons' • Antarctica as a global common • Globalisation critique	EOY 12 Exam 2.5 hours based on topics covered in Year 12 – AQA past exam questions
Skills:	Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment				Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment			

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Year 13 Geography

	Exam Board: AQA		**Careers:** Architectural technologist, Business analyst, Cartographer, Data analyst, Environmental consultant, Geographical information systems officer, Marketing executive, Secondary school teacher, Social researcher, Town Planner		**Co-Curricular: Sicily trip- Easter 2025**		**Sequencing: GCSE – Coasts, po-population, globalisation KS3 – knowledge and understanding of processes and distribution of resources/people**	
	Autumn 1 • **Global Systems and Governance** • **Hazards** • **NEA**	**Autumn 2** • **Global Systems and Governance** • **Hazards** • **NEA**	**Spring 1** • **Global Systems and Governance** • **Hazards** • **NEA**	**AP1**	**Spring 2** • **Global Systems and Governance** • **Hazards** • **NEA**	**Summer 1** **Revision/Revisiting Year 12 Topics**	**Summer 2**	**AP2**
Content **(Topic outlined in full – teaching spread across timescales above)**	**NEA focus** Plus some topic lessons to cover the remaining physical and human content.	**Global Systems** • Globalisation • Global systems • International trade and acces to markets • Geographical Conflicts • The 'global commons' • Antarctica as a global common • Globalisation critique	**Hazards** • The concept of hazards in a geographical context • Plate Tectonics • Volcanic hazards • Seismic hazards • Storm hazards • Fires in nature	Mock Exams in Physical and Human Geography – 2.5 hours – full AQA past exam papers	Continuation of topics already listed	All human and physical topics	• Summer examinations	Two 60-minute tasks in class. Content determined by mock exam attainment and progress. Delivered in SPR2
	Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment				Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment			