

Geography – Aims/Intent

A high-quality geography education should inspire our 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 at Chiltern Hills Academy equips students with the knowledge about diverse places, our community, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. Field trips enable students to put this knowledge into practice.

As our students progress, their growing knowledge about the world should help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments, including an understanding of local physical and human geographical characteristics. Geographical knowledge, understanding and skills provide the frameworks and approaches that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time. Students also leave CHA understanding what it means to be a geographer and the career opportunities open to them.

Our intent is to provide opportunities for students to:

1. Develop sequencing towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge/skill via the use of sequenced SOW and linking of geographical topics
2. Prepare students for the next steps in their future by giving skills that will be transferable - geography is a multi-skilled subject
3. Learners will be inspired to continue their interest in Geography later in life or in further education.
4. Experience alternative environments and have experiences of career options
5. Have wider experiences outside of the classroom and to raise their awareness of other cultures

Implementation

Key stage 3:

In Y7 students start their geographical journey discovering what geography is and why it is wonderful. Students go on to investigate a new topic every half term; examples include Violent Earth - Earthquakes & Volcanos, Amazing Map Skills and Coastlines, all of which are followed by a levelled assessment.

In Y8 the aim is to build on knowledge and skills gained in Y7. The year starts with Looking at Rainforests, where students learn about threats to the natural world. Other topics include Tourism and a case study of China. These topics are always under review and could change.

AQA Specification

Key stage 4:

In Y9 students start the GCSE course. The main focus being on Physical Geography and Challenges of Natural Hazards and Physical Landscapes in the UK. Students then cover The Living World and Urban Issues & Challenges. The final topic area is The Changing Economic World and The Challenge of Resource Management. There is no requirement for Controlled Assessment, however students are expected to carry out fieldwork in 2 contrasting locations over the course of the 3 years.

Key stage 5:

In Y12 students start to study AQA AS Geography. This programme of study builds upon the key concepts and understanding developed at GCSE. Students will investigate topics; Hazards, Coastal Environments or Hot Desert Environments and, finally Changing Places. Students will undertake a fieldwork trip which in

the past has taken them to Swanage, focusing on Jurassic coastline and the village of Corfe.

During Year 13 students will investigate Carbon Cycles, Ecosystems Under Stress, Population and Resource Security.

Impact

We want all of our students to achieve their full potential and become well rounded individuals. Our aim is to ensure lessons fascinate and inspire our young geographers about the world in which they live. Students learn about places, processes and current geographical issues, helping students develop their understanding and form their own views on many contemporary challenges. Lessons take an enquiry approach, encouraging independent learning. We ensure students have the knowledge of what it means to have a career in Geography through the curriculum and outside speakers.

Enrichment opportunities-

Trips are offered to Iceland to study the volcanic landscapes and experience what is for many a first experience of being away from home for a period of time.

GCSE students have studied in Bognor Regis, Ashridge and Watford in recent years.