

KS3 Geography

The Geography department is a forward thinking and passionate department that offers pupils the opportunity to understand the world around them. Pupils are taught a wide range of geographical topics across all key stages with the underlying goal to enthuse pupils for the subject and allow them to fulfil their potential. Geography is key to a better world and through teaching stimulating topics and lessons pupils will understand how they shape and effect the world around them but also how the world around them shapes and effects them.

Bringing the real world into lessons and connecting pupils with the reality of what they are studying is fundamental to the department and we are always aiming to update our practices and embrace the newest technologies – just recently google expeditions provided a virtual reality day especially for geographers in the school where they were transported to places such as the Amazon rainforest, Sahara Desert, and Antarctica.

Through studying Geography at St James we believe pupils develop to be well rounded conscientious students who can apply understanding to all things they see and experience around them.

Students start the year studying what Geography actually is and the key skills needed to become a good geographer. They learn the three types of Geography, to read and understand a range of maps, and the skills needed to be able to use these maps effectively, including four and six figure grid references, measuring distances, understanding and recognising symbols and interpreting the landscape by studying contour lines. This is all done in practical lessons that try to simulate real life situations where they might be asked to use those skills outside of school and in the workplace. Later on in the year students will look at weather and climate and particularly what affects the climate of the UK, which will involve some fieldwork based around the school. How to care for our environment and our impact on it will be covered through a scheme of work on the 3Rs (Reduce Reuse Recycle). Students will also study for a hypothetical African expedition which gives them an in-depth understanding and knowledge of the tropical environment, from the landscapes and climates, to the people and wildlife, as well as all the major issues that affect that part of the world.

Skills: Students will develop key geographical skills such as map reading and grid references alongside key concepts and processes operating in our day to day life (e.g. why we get the weather we do). Students will develop the ability to identify, describe and explain and tie in learning within the classroom to the outside world.

Assessment: Students will be assessed in a range of ways involving both pupil and peer assessed tasks as well as teacher led and marked work. Tasks and activities assessed will be varied and range from group presentations to traditional tests to model making, all designed to cater for every learner's strengths.

Parental support: Parents are encouraged to use Class Charts to monitor students out of class learning and to aid students with some of the longer tasks such as making waste pizzas. Parents' experience of the world will undoubtedly help with understanding Geography and the sharing of these experiences is strongly encouraged.