



GEOGRAPHY

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MRS WORMALD
EXAMINATION BOARD: EDUQAS

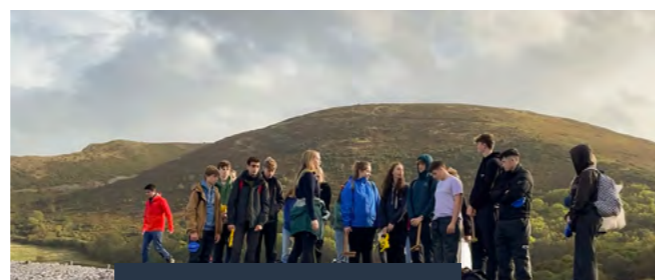
SPECIFICATION: GEOGRAPHY
QUALIFICATION: A-LEVEL



Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the world's current problems boil down to geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them.

Global warming, sustainable food production, natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, the spread of disease, the reasons for migration and the future of energy resources are just some of the great challenges facing the next generation of geographers.

MICHAEL PALIN CBE



WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY AT TRURO SCHOOL?

We believe Geography cuts right to the heart of the fundamental challenges facing our planet. Never has there been a more important time to study this subject. As David Attenborough recently highlighted, young people are poised to bring about a social and environmental revolution, which he likens to the abolition of slavery.

In our A-Level classes we will be placing current news stories in context and confronting all the most relevant and topical issues facing the planet today. Geography at Truro School is a strong facilitating subject that complements and enhances understanding across the curriculum.

This A-Level will enable you to understand physical processes, the need for humans to utilise natural resources and the importance of managing these processes and resources sustainably for future generations.

You will also acquire essential transferrable skills through the planning, research and completion of the independent investigation.

One of the Russell Group's eight facilitating subjects, Geography will open up options for you in your future. Employers and universities see it as a robust academic subject rich in skills, knowledge and understanding. As a subject linking the arts and the sciences it is highly flexible in terms of what you can combine it with at A-Level and beyond.

Tailored experiences:

We tailor fieldwork experience in the Lower Sixth to areas of specific student interest to allow a wide range of choice for the independent investigation.

Excellent support: You will have one-to-one mentoring for this investigation and this will include available departmental support before and after school in 38a, the Sixth Form Study Room.

Academic enrichment: Essay-writing skills are honed throughout this course and the examination board have commented on this being a particular feature of our teaching at Truro School.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN LOWER SIXTH

The human content of this year looks at how we perceive the notion of 'place' and how this changes over time due to factors such as levels of economic activity and technological advances. You examine your personal perceptions of various destinations and gain an insight of how this translates into how places are used and managed.

The physical aspect studies both the Water and Carbon Cycles in detail. This includes studying the processes at play within the hydrological cycle. The notion of equilibrium is integral to this topic, understanding the pressures of managing

drainage basins with seasonal changes and also in times of both flood and deficit. With regard to the Carbon Cycle, we focus on the role of carbon stores at different scales and the importance of feedback loops. The Coastal unit looks at processes and landforms in coastal zones and also how the coast provides opportunities for human activities and these actions can have both positive and negative impacts that require managing. We also develop your fieldwork skills so that by the end of the year you liaise with staff to plan your independent investigation and key questions.



WHERE WILL AN A-LEVEL IN GEOGRAPHY TAKE YOU?

Anywhere you wish to go! Employers and universities prize the knowledge and skills that studying geography can provide, be it knowing how the world works, planning research and report writing, working in a team, using new technologies and communication skills – and much more.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN UPPER SIXTH

We study five topics: Ecosystems, Tectonic Hazards, Migration, Governing Global Oceans and Development in an African Context. Your project is also completed and written up in the format of the six stages of enquiry.

The Tectonic Hazards topic encompasses all the tectonic mechanisms surrounding the structure of the earth. It also considers human vulnerability to risk and strategies to increase resilience in countries of contrasting economic development.

There is a similar set of concepts in the Ecosystems unit as you will need to

understand not only their value, distribution and how their nutrient flows vary but also how they are at risk and need to be managed sustainably.

The Migration unit considers the causes and impacts for human migration patterns locally, nationally and internationally. You study a variety of types of migration from the impacts of rural-to-urban migration to the issues surrounding international refugees.

The Governing Global Oceans topic gives students more than an understanding of maritime law. It also considers topical issues such as ownership of Arctic resources,

TRIPS, VISITS AND FIELD WORK

Residential trip to The Field Study Centre at Nettlecombe. Visiting Watchet, Minehead and Porlock in order to complete a variety of field work techniques.

Urban studies in Plymouth

Day trips to local ecosystems such as sand dunes, woodlands and moorland (dependent on student choices)

NON EXAMINED ASSESSMENT (NEA)

This constitutes 20% of the entire A Level. The Department has been commended by the Exam Board for the high quality and level of individuality, creativity and independence displayed in the work of recent cohorts.

EXTENSIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

We are always keen to support and make strong connections with both the Sixth Form's Amnesty and Model United Nations groups

RGS essay-writing competition

Warwick University Global Sustainable Development essay competition

Geography Review journals in the Library