The topics we study are varied, relevant, challenging and exciting. The skills developed serve geographers well in all aspects of later life.

Geography as a subject offers us a way of understanding the planet we live on. It considers the physical and human influences on the shape and style of our world.

Geography is as relevant today as it has always been; perhaps more so! We read about and are affected by climate change, extreme climates, flooding, earthquakes, immigration, regeneration of cities, economic change, food miles, health and many other issues.

At SWCHS we have chosen to follow the A-Level specification offered by AQA

So why study Geography?

At SWCHS, Geography has a history of outstanding A-Level results, with 31% of our students achieving A* - A grades in 2019.

The subject is taught by two members of staff per group, one specialising in Physical Geography and one in Human Geography.

The course includes four days of fieldwork to support students with their NEA project. In addition there is a biennial visit to Iceland, with the next trip taking place in Easter 2021.

You may enjoy the subject but be unsure where a study of Geography could lead you. Aspects of Geography cover both the Humanities and Science, so it combines well with a range of subjects. There are many university courses that are based around Geography. The close link between the subject and the world makes for a long and varied list of related careers.
During Year 12 students will study:

**The Water and Carbon Cycles**
The content focuses on the major stores of water and carbon at or near the Earth’s surface and the dynamic cyclical relationships associated with them.

**Population and the Environment**
This unit is designed to explore the relationships between physical geography and population numbers, population health and well-being, levels of economic development and the role and impact of the natural environment.

**Changing Places**
The content looks at peoples engagement with places, their experience of them and the qualities they ascribe to them. The study of the content must be embedded in two contrasting places (Saffron Walden and Birmingham).

**Fieldwork and Skills**
Students will undertake four days of compulsory fieldwork in Year 12 which will assist and support students with the data collection necessary for the geographical investigation which they will undertake in Year 13.

These trips include a study of a local river, data collection in Epping Forest, a local study in Saffron Walden and a full days fieldwork in either London or Birmingham.

During Year 13 students will study:

**Hazards and their Management**
The content will include hazards associated with volcanoes, earthquakes and storms. It will also consider how these hazards can be managed and the impacts of management.

**Coastal Systems and Landscapes**
The content focuses on coastal zones, which are dynamic environments in which landscapes develop by the interaction of winds, waves, currents and terrestrial and marine sediments.

**Global Systems and Global Governance**
The content focuses on globalisation – the economic, political and social changes associated with technological and other driving forces which have been a key feature of global economy and society in recent decades.

**Geographical Investigation**
All students are required to carry out an independent investigation as part of the course. This is a 3,000-4,000 word project on an area of the student’s interest/choice.

**How will I be assessed? (AQA)**
- Unit 1: Physical Unit (40%)
  2.30hr paper. 120 marks.
- Unit 2: Human Unit (40%)
  2.30hr paper. 120 marks.
- Unit 3: Geographical Investigation (20%)
  3,000 to 4,000 words. 60 marks.

All undertaken in Year 13 as a linear course.

For more information please contact: Miss S Makepeace (Humanities)
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“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future.”

Michael Palin