

GEOGRAPHY

The Geography Department takes inspiration from the Geographical Association believing that there are few things more fundamental than learning about ‘the Earth as our home’. Geography at LSA can therefore be summarised as: “Geography is the study of the Earth as a home to humankind” (Johnson, 1985).

Our intention in Geography is to encourage learners to be inspired, motivated, and challenged, resulting in them gaining a deep and rich understanding of the world in which they live. Geography is a multi-faceted discipline that combines the analysis of social questions, environmental issues, and modern real-world solutions and as such is an important part of other academic subjects. The curriculum is designed to provide appropriate challenge for all learners to succeed in geography.

The curriculum is underpinned by three key principles. In line with the aims of the KS3 National Curriculum we believe that students should be able: to develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places; understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world; and be competent with geographical skills.

When studying Geography we aim to:

- Provide learners with the ability to ‘think like a geographer’ meaning that they think about the world in new ways. Also to question and debate the knowledge, therefore developing their understanding and skills to question knowledge and become geographical enquirers who, are active participants.
- Develop their contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places, defining physical and human characteristics and therefore providing a geographical understanding of processes.
- Provide learners with the geographical knowledge to develop their understanding of contemporary challenges that face our planet and to become more knowledgeable members of the community who gain an appreciation of geographical concepts from a local to a global scale.

VISION AND PURPOSE

- Provide learners with the knowledge and understanding to develop their geographical skills to interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs, and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- Further develop geographical enquiry and understanding of geographical processes through investigation, reasoning, collecting, and interpreting data, presenting, and describing their results, arguing their point to reach substantiated conclusions and undertaking fieldwork.
- Further develop employability skills through different activities offered through different opportunities within the curriculum which will also introduce different types of careers

Our pedagogy is underpinned by a mastery approach meaning we teach for understanding. Our curriculum takes a spiral approach which revisits places and topics in ways that build depth of knowledge and understanding. Meaning that prior knowledge is regularly revisited where it is built upon and applied to new concepts. Regional units allow the content covered to be revisited, securing the knowledge gained in the context of a particular place.

Teachers will use continuous assessment to inform future planning and to address misconceptions. They are knowledgeable of the geographical journey and will amend and change curriculum resources to meet the needs of their own classes, they are responsive to students learning and will revisit learning not yet mastered or provide more in-depth scaffolding. The ambitious curriculum will provide our students with the skills, knowledge and understanding that they need to develop into well-rounded individuals who are prepared for future learning and employment.