

Geography

Curriculum principles

By the end of their education, a student of geography at Dixons Brooklands Academy will:

- build their cultural capital to help them understand the contemporary world around them
- develop a sense of place and curiosity through fieldwork and enquiry-based learning
- understand the complex interactions between human and physical geographical processes, using the evidence of the past to explore future trends

It is the vision of the geography Department at Dixons Brooklands Academy to equip all young people with a deep understanding and awe of the complex interactions that have shaped and continue to change our planet

In order to achieve a true understanding of geography, topics have been intelligently sequenced based on the following rationale:

- students are introduced to key underlying geographical principles before studying concepts in depth. For example, students rehearse and recall the principles of geographical cycles (e.g., the hydrological cycle) and geographical models (e.g., the pillars of sustainability). These principles are introduced early and revisited frequently, they form the backbone of the deep understanding that all successful geographers possess.
- the sequencing ensures pupils develop a depth of understanding and a broad range of knowledge, which allows them to identify links between topics and concepts.
- fieldwork and graphical skills are practiced throughout the curriculum. Students are introduced to fieldwork and given the opportunity to practice their data collection and presentation skills. Once these skills have been developed, students are then provided with the opportunities to analyse and evaluate fieldwork.
- case studies are implemented throughout the curriculum to enhance the students' knowledge of key human and physical Geographical processes. We have chosen to expose pupils to case studies including Nigeria, Rio de Janeiro, Italy and Nepal.
- along with the key concepts, subject specific vocabulary is developed and revisited to enable students to communicate effectively.

The geography curriculum will address social disadvantage by addressing gaps in students' knowledge and skills:

- the geography curriculum will expose students to knowledge and skills they may otherwise fail to encounter in their everyday lives. The study of geography will develop the ability to support arguments with specific evidence. This will allow students to discuss and debate topical issues with confidence, credibility and clarity.
- disadvantaged students and those from identified underrepresented groups are priority for extra intervention sessions so that every opportunity to close the disadvantage gap is capitalised.

We fully believe geography can contribute to the personal development of students at Dixons Brooklands Academy:

- the curriculum provides students with the opportunity to enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- students will gain knowledge of the different cultures of our planet and will encounter challenging themes such as the development gap, conflict and climate change.
- the geography curriculum at DBK is committed to our anti-racism agenda. Students are taught the historical context of a range of nations and cultures to ensure that are fully informed in their analysis of current issues

At KS3 and KS4, our belief is that homework should be interleaved revision of powerful knowledge that has been modelled and taught in lessons. This knowledge is recalled and applied through a range of low stakes quizzing and practice.

Opportunities are built in to make links to the world of work to enhance the careers, advice and guidance that students are exposed to:

- careers advice is implemented throughout the curriculum to allow students to see the opportunities which Geography can create.
- through our fieldwork and visits students will experience the real-life geographical skills needed for a diverse range of related careers. These skills are the fundamental foundation for all geographical careers ranging from Climate Scientist to Urban Development Coordinator, careers with opportunities to work in every continent and influence the greatest issues affecting our entire planet.