



Wallington  
County Grammar School

## The Geography Curriculum

<b>Whole School Curriculum Intent:</b>	<p>Wallington County Grammar School is a highly academic but pastorally minded school which delivers a curriculum that enables all students to embody our motto - <i>Per Ardua ad Summa</i>, Through Difficulties to the Heights. Each Subject Leader has autonomy over their own curriculum and its intent, i.e. its subject content, skills content, sequencing and assessment schedule. This is vital to ensure the academic curriculum is designed by highly qualified subject experts. The intentions behind whole school approach to curriculum design taken by senior leaders are to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Breadth</b> - We intend to provide a broad, academic and liberal curriculum that equips students with the body of human knowledge and different ways of thinking necessary to succeed in and enjoy their education, careers and wider lives.</li><li>● <b>Depth</b> - We do not want our students to simply study the national curriculum and examination specifications with grades being our sole focus. We aim for our students to become true scholars of the disciplines that they are learning so that they achieve a deep and sophisticated level of knowledge and understanding.</li><li>● <b>Values</b> - We aim for our students to develop our four core values: commitment, courage, compassion and creativity.</li><li>● <b>Democracy</b> - We aim for all our students to have the necessary knowledge and confidence, not just to participate in the democracy of the United Kingdom, but to lead it.</li></ul>
<b>Subject Curriculum Intent:</b>	<p>At WCGS, we aim to develop Geographers who leave the classroom as critical thinkers—able to think, speak, and engage with the world through a geographical lens. Our Geography curriculum is designed to nurture global citizens who are environmentally conscious, globally aware, and equipped to make informed decisions about their role in the world.</p> <p>We have a focus on ‘Amazing Places’ and want to inspire a lifelong curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. We do this through engaging with contemporary issues including the impact of environmental hazards on people such as tectonics and coastal erosion and how the decisions made by people have an impact on the environment such as trade and global warming.</p> <p>Our Geography curriculum is academically rigorous, forward-looking, and rooted in real-world application. It prepares students not only for examination success but for informed participation in a rapidly changing global society. Many of the areas of work that our students will go into will require skills developed through Geography such as critical thinking and analysis, an understanding of people and place and the increasingly prominent role of sustainability.</p>
<b>Subject Curriculum Aims:</b>	<p>Geography at WCGS enables students to understand the complex and interdependent relationships between the physical environment and human societies, locally, nationally, and globally. Students will gain an understanding of the significance of space and place and the intrinsic connections between people and the environment. Through this understanding of a sense of place students are developing their spatial thinking and will be able to understand how we are connected, their place in the world and their role in decision making and managing challenges as a global citizen. We aim to nurture geographers who are inquisitive, informed, and empowered to make a difference in the world.</p>

	<p>Our curriculum is a carefully sequenced spiral curriculum to ensure students build progressively on prior knowledge, mastering complex geographical theories and enable discussion and debate. We encourage our students to ask questions and independent investigation and synoptic thinking are at the heart of our Geography curriculum.</p> <p>By the end of the course students will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Developed a deep understanding of key physical and human processes, such as natural hazards, climate change, urbanisation, globalisation, and resource management.</li> <li>● Through place-based studies, developed locational knowledge and contextual understanding of the UK, as well as contrasting global regions.</li> <li>● Developed high-level geographical thinking and be able to explore spatial patterns, temporal changes, cause-effect relationships, and sustainability.</li> <li>● Critically evaluated contemporary issues using evidence and multiple stakeholder perspectives.</li> <li>● Become confident in applying cartographic, graphical, numerical, and statistical techniques.</li> <li>● Undertaken meaningful field experiences in both physical and human contexts.</li> <li>● Created their own questions for Geographical enquiry and used primary and secondary data to draw conclusions.</li> <li>● Engaged with current events, ethical debates, and emerging global challenges, developing their sense of global citizenship and moral responsibility.</li> <li>● Accessed challenging texts, contemporary research, and academic-style writing, ensuring readiness for further study and competitive university admissions, including Russell Group institutions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Exam Boards</b></p>	<p>GCSE: Pearson A Level: Pearson</p>

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Y7	What makes the UK unique?	What happens where the land meets the sea?	How do Geographers use maps?	What are the challenges and opportunities facing Africa?	Fieldwork - What's the biodiversity of the school site?	What Geographical issues face the world today?
	Assessment 1 Format:	Multiple choice and extended writing		Assessment 2 Format:	Multiple choice and extended writing	
Y8	How does ice change landscapes?	How do people use glacial landscapes?	Is it possible for people to live safely alongside tectonic hazards?		What does the future look like for Asia?	What can we do about climate change?
	Assessment 1 Format:	Multiple choice and extended writing		Assessment 2 Format:	Multiple choice and extended writing	
Y9	The changing landscapes of the UK	Coastal landscapes and processes	Ecosystems, biodiversity and management - Tropical rainforests	Ecosystems, biodiversity and management - Deciduous woodlands	River landscapes and processes	UK Challenges and fieldwork
	Assessment 1 Format:	Multiple choice and extended writing		Assessment 2 Format:	GCSE Exam paper	
Y10	Changing Cities - Manchester	Weather hazards and climate change	Weather hazards - Drought	Changing Cities - Nairobi	Weather hazards - Tropical Cyclones	Resource management - water
	Assessment 1 Format:	Multiple choice and extended writing		Assessment 2 Format:	GCSE Exam paper	
Y11	Global Development		UK Challenges	Fieldwork		
	Mock Format:	GCSE Exam paper		Assessment 2 Format:	GCSE Exam paper	
L6th	Globalisation		Regeneration		Fieldwork and NEA	Fieldwork and NEA
	Water Cycle	Carbon Cycle	Tectonics	Glaciation		Fieldwork and NEA
	Assessment 1 Format:	A LEVEL Exam paper		Assessment 2 Format:	ALEVEL Exam paper	
U6th	Superpowers	Fieldwork and NEA	Health, Human Rights and Intervention	Water and Carbon	Paper 3	
	Water Cycle	Carbon Cycle	Tectonics		Paper 3	
	Mock Format:	A LEVEL Exam paper				

## Key Vocabulary

1. Causality
2. Systems
3. Equilibrium
4. Feedback
5. Inequality
6. Representation
7. Identity
8. Globalisation
9. Interdependence
10. Mitigation and Adaptation
11. Sustainability
12. Risk
13. Resilience
14. Thresholds
15. Development

## Suggested Reading List

Publications such as:  
National Geographic  
Geography Review  
The Economist

The 'Horrible Geography' series.  
David Attenborough and Simon Reeve documentaries.

Human Geography:  
Making globalisation work (2006) Joseph Stiglitz  
Economic Geography: A contemporary introduction (2010) Coe, Kelly and Yeung. Blackwell.  
Development as Freedom (1999) Amartya Sen. Oxford University Press.  
The end of Poverty: How we can make it happen in our lifetime (2005) Sachs  
Spaces of social exclusion (2006) Gough, Eisenschitz and McCullough. Routledge  
Understanding cultural geography: Places and traces (2009) Anderson. London, Routledge.

Rebranding places:  
Ken Coates and Richard Silbur [1973]: Poverty: the Forgotten Englishmen – Pelican

Bill Bryson [1996]: Notes from a small island – Blackswan Books in fact anything by him

#### Human Environments:

James Kynge [2009]: China Shakes The World: The Rise of the Hungry Nation - Phoenix

Will Hutton [2008]: The Writing on the Wall: China and the West in the 21st Century - Abacus

Mike Davis [2007]: Planet of Slums – Verso; [2004]: Dead Cities -The New Press; [1998]: City of Quartz - Pimlico

Peter Hall [2002]: Cities of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design in the Twentieth History –Blackwell

#### Trade and Globalisation:

Alan Beattie [2009]: False Economy. A Surprising Economic History of the World - Penguin

PJO Rourke [2008]: On the Wealth of Nations. Adam Smith's Book that Changed the World - Atlantic Books

Piertra Rivoli [2009]: The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade – John Wiley & Sons.

#### Physical Geography:

Fundamentals of biogeography (2004) Huggett 2nd edition London Routledge

Glaciers and glaciation (2010) Douglas, Benn and Evans. Hodder, Oxon

An introduction to coastal processes and geomorphology (2003) Masselink and Hughes. Hodder, Arnold

Fundamentals of weather and climate (2010) McIlveen. Oxford, OUP.

#### Physical Environments

Joe Simpson [1998]: Touching the Void – Vintage

Al Gore [2006]: An Inconvenient Truth –Bloomsbury

Richard Girling [2008]: Sea Change: Britain's Coastal Catastrophe - Eden Project Books

George Monbiot [2007]: Heat: How We Can Stop the Planet Burning

#### Coasts, landscapes, countryside, geology:

Nicholas Crane [2010]: Coast: Our Island Story: A Journey of Discovery Around Britain's Coastline - BBC Books

Alan Titchmarsh [2004]: British Isles: A Natural History - BBC Books; Reprint edition

Ian Vince [2011]: The Lie of the land: The explosive story of how Britain was formed – Pan

Richard Fortey [2010]: The Hidden landscape: A Journey into the Geological Past - Bodley Head

Francis Pryor [2010]: The Making of the British Landscape: How we have transformed the land etc... - Allen Lane