



## A level Geography



### Who is this course for?

People who choose geography will gain a deeper understanding of how the world works and how the people in it interact. Geography is a great choice of subject to study at a time of growing concern about climate change, shrinking energy resources and global poverty; it is one of the most relevant courses people could choose to study for our times. Geography also gives a wealth skills and knowledge that will be valuable for life beyond College and will open minds to endless career possibilities that may not have been considered. If you have enjoyed geography in the past you will love it at Wyke!

### What are the entry criteria

Most students who study Geography will require five good GCSE results of C or above preferably with a grade B or above in English. In addition a point score greater than 5 is desirable.

## **The geography department at Wyke Sixth Form College**

The Geography department consists of two enthusiastic geographers (Jim Darmody and Kerry Spamer) who teach both physical and human geography. Each student will receive two textbooks to support their studies during the two years. They will also have access to a library of geography books, fieldwork equipment, ICT facilities, geography magazines and weekly workshops. There are a large number of up to date resources and revision materials on the college Moodle to support work done in the classroom. Each student will receive personal guidance and study materials to ensure that they reach their potential.

### **Exam Board**

The department study the AQA Geography specification .

### **Course Details**

#### **AS Geography Year 12**

##### **Unit 1 Physical and Human geography**

- Core Studies: Rivers, Floods and Management
- Core Studies: Population Change
- Physical Option: Coastal Environments
- Human Option: Energy Issues

2.0hr exam of four questions, one from each topic above comprising structured and extended writing components.

##### **Unit 2 Geographical skills**

1.0hr exam of practical skills based on either Rivers and flood management or Population change.

#### **A2 Level Geography Year 13**

##### **Unit 3**

- Plate Tectonics and Associated Hazards
- Contemporary Conflicts and Challenges
- World Cities
- Ecosystems

2.5hr exam with two structured questions and one extended essay.

##### **Unit 4B Geographical Issues and Evaluation**

Pre –release booklet themed on a real geographical issue using maps, data and reports, which is then tested on in a 1.5hr exam.

##### **Method of Assessment is 100% examination**

## How the course is delivered

Students will attend four 70 minute geography lessons per week. The week will be split in two. In one half students will study physical geography and in the other human geography. Students may be taught by just one teacher or both. Geographical skills will be taught alongside the main topics with a river fieldwork trip providing an opportunity to exercise the skills.

## Departmental Enrichment

Lunchtime workshops are provided to allow students to brush up on skills and techniques and one to one support is offered if needed. As well as this the department provide lots of additional help in-between lessons and by email.

The geography department believe that fieldwork is a vital part of geography; students will have the opportunity to take part in a number of trips to complement their studies. In the past these have included a day of data collection at Helwath Beck in the Yorkshire Moors, York urban study and a Lake District residential trip to name a few. Next year the department are hoping to undertake their first trip to Iceland.

## Student success

Students studying A2 Geography have had a 100% pass rate for the past two years.

### **Levi Willis (Second Year Geography student University of Hull)**

"I enjoyed studying geography at Wyke, so much so I wanted to carry it on at university. There's more to do for the degree but my A level was a good preparation for this. I'll be carrying out some fieldwork in Cyprus this year which I'm looking forward to. Geography is one of those subjects that covers lots of topics, so you have to be prepared to work hard, but you do gain a lot from it".

### **Ben Walker (current A2 student)**

Ben won the annual Geography award for his performance in his AS year. Ben achieved a grade A in his year 12 exam and is set to achieve the same result at the end of this year.

"I believe that Geography is an essential subject to study at Wyke College. It allows you to bring both quantitative and qualitative skills to the classroom, providing essential preparation for most university courses. It also allows you to practice various fieldwork skills, with multiple field trips to several locations. This coupled with the excellent teaching provides the best possible chance to achieve an excellent grade in Geography."

## **What does this course lead to**

Many geographers are attracted to the diverse and specialist areas of study that Geography offers at University, most students choose to go on to higher education. Geography can lead to a wide range of careers such as local government, landscape architecture, engineering, cartography, nature conservation, social work, housing management and market research or even some more challenging professions such as civil service, sports management, meteorology, volcanologist, lecturer or systems analyst. Geographers are equipped with a wealth of knowledge and skills that are attractive to employers, the career opportunities are endless.

## **What can I do now that would help prepare me for this course?**

To be successful in geography students will need to 'think like geographers'. What is happening in the world today is very important to gain a broad, realistic and up to date understanding of the subject. Students are advised to watch the news and collect articles about any geography related topics. The news is full of geography and therefore to narrow down the search students are advised to look at the topics above to start their collection. It is also recommended that students refresh their geographical skills throughout the summer. A full list of skills can be found on the AQA website in the Geography specification.