



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Which topics do you cover?

In KS3 we cover a variety of topics that include physical, human, and environmental geographies. Physical geography topics include Map Skills, Tropical Environments, Tectonic Hazards, Rivers, and Extreme Environments. Human geography topics include Globalisation, Development, EU Migrant Crisis and Population. Environmental topics include Global Environmental Issues/Climate Change and Extreme Environments.

Are students placed into sets?

We do not set in geography at Highdown. In KS3, students are taught in their mentor groups. At KS4, students are taught in their mixed-ability option blocks. Lessons, in KS3, are taught in a way to accommodate all student abilities.

Are there any fieldtrips?

There are no current offsite fieldtrips in KS3, but we do conduct fieldwork on the school site during lesson time. We are in the process of planning virtual fieldwork opportunities at KS3.

At KS4, we offer an annual overseas fieldtrip. In the past few years, we have visited Iceland and Sorrento/Bay of Naples in the Italy on rotation. These trips have taken place during the first week of the Easter holidays.

We are also planning virtual fieldwork opportunities for KS4 and KS5.

As part of the AQA GCSE course, students conduct a rivers studies investigation at Amersham field studies centre, and an urban studies investigation in the surrounding area of Reading. Both are day trips during the school term.

How are students assessed at KS3?

We teach students five topics in each year at KS3. We assess at three points in each year. Term 2 we conduct an in-class assessment based on knowledge recall and retrieval, Term 3 is an independent project-based assessment, and Term 6 is a decision-making exercise, completed both in school and at home independently.

We have mirrored the KS3 assessments on the structure and skills required at GCSE level.