

Tuesday 7 June 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we approach the end of the academic year, students in Year 9 must choose their humanities option for their GCSE studies for Years 10 and 11. Students must select whether they would prefer to continue studying geography or history. Information about each course can be found on pages 2 and 3 of this letter.

Your child will be studying the subject they choose for the next two years. Therefore, the option must be selected for the right reasons.

Good reasons for studying a particular subject:

- It is a subject you are good at or enjoy;
- It is a subject that is relevant to a career you are interested in;
- It is a subject that will ensure you have a balanced curriculum.

Poor reasons for saying that you prefer a particular subject:

- Your friends are doing it – you may not be in the same class;
- You like/dislike particular teachers – you may not be taught by them;
- You think it's an easy option – some subjects become much more challenging at GCSE level.

Please discuss this with your child over the next few days. If you would like more information about the course, please contact the Head of Geography, Mr Kitson and the Head of History, Mr Fieldhouse.

On Monday 13 June, a link will be sent out to you on MCAS to complete your child's preference. Please ensure that this Form is completed by Monday 20 June at 12pm. Failure to fill out the form may result in your child not receiving their preference.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Ms E Hickey  
Senior Vice Principal  
[ehickey@dixonska.com](mailto:ehickey@dixonska.com)



## Geography GCSE

### Subject Information

Geography is all about what's going on in the world, and where it's happening. It is always in the news and is very relevant to your life now and in the future. It is up to geographers to understand and help solve some of the major problems the world faces today such as climate change, natural hazards and population growth.

There are many reasons why you should study GCSE Geography which include:

- developing your interest in our changing world, understanding current events and seeing the 'big picture'
- understanding the importance of living a sustainable lifestyle, how to be a responsible citizen and showing an awareness of our environment
- appreciating different cultures in this country and in other parts of the world
- becoming aware of physical (natural) and human environments
- developing a range of skills that are valued by employers including literacy, numeracy, map reading, graph and diagram interpretation, problem solving, data collection and decision-making.

What will you study?

You will study a number of topics such as tectonic hazards, tropical storms, climate change, rivers, coasts, tropical rainforests, deserts, urban areas, the UK and resources.

Fieldwork is an important part of GCSE Geography and as part of the course at least one school field trip will be offered.

### Assessment

- Paper 1: [35%] Natural hazards (tectonic hazards, tropical storms, extreme weather in the UK, climate change); UK physical landscapes (coastal landscapes in the UK, river landscapes in the UK); Ecosystems (tropical rainforests and hot deserts).
- Paper 2: [35%] Urban issues and challenges, The changing economic world, Resource management and Energy.
- Paper 3: [30%] Geographical applications: issue evaluation, fieldwork and geographical skills.

### Related Careers / A level Progression

Geography is a recognized academic subject respected by universities and employers. Geography graduates are employed in occupations as diverse as advertising, civil engineering, accountancy, armed forces, management consultancy, law, sales, finance, education, environmental awareness, civil service, Foreign Office, the travel industry and journalism.

### Need more information?

Contact Mr. Kitson [skitson@dixonska.com](mailto:skitson@dixonska.com)



## History GCSE

### Subject Information

Apart from being very interesting history is useful for a whole host of careers and life too. GCSE History will teach you vital skills that employers are looking for.

Through history you will learn to handle different types of evidence and opinions and make informed decisions; you will be able to see more than one point of view and what motivates people, their thoughts and feelings. You will understand that different people see things differently. You will be able to find and read lots of different types of information and will be able to communicate your ideas clearly both verbally and in writing. In today's internet-based information overloaded world employers really appreciate someone who can sift through the evidence to find vital information and make their own judgments – a skill that GCSE History will allow you to develop.

GCSE History provides you with context to understand the world around you and the society you live in. Students have the opportunity to study engaging topics such as America during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the origins of World War Two, How Britain went from a monarchy to a democracy over a 1000 year period and an in depth look at 1066 and the Norman Conquest.

### Assessment

Students will complete two exams at the end of the course the exams consist of;

- 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling punctuation and grammar) Paper 1
- 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling punctuation and grammar) Paper 2
- Both exams (Paper 1 and 2) 2 hours
- Range of compulsory and choice questions

### Related Careers / A level progression

History is a “facilitating subject” as recommended by the Russell Group of Universities, so it is very helpful in gaining a place at the more prestigious universities. Careers, which use history, include teaching, being a curator, publishing, journalism, archaeology, law and working in the media.

### Need more information?

Contact Mr. Fieldhouse [lfieldhouse@dixonska.com](mailto:lfieldhouse@dixonska.com)

