

## Geography

The aim of the geography department is to provide a broad and balanced geographical knowledge and understanding of the world around us. In addition, pupils gain an interest in the world beyond the classroom via fieldwork experiences. Geography is becoming ever more relevant in today's rapidly changing society. The themes explored in the KS3 and KS4 curriculum equip pupils with relevant and important skills and techniques which they may go on to use in their chosen careers/studies. Geography is considered one of the most valuable academic subjects by universities across the UK.



Year 9 River Study – Gortin Glen Forest Park

### Key Stage 3

In years 8 to 10 we introduce the concept of Geography. We aim to make lessons as interesting and challenging as they can be to stimulate interest in the subject.

At Key Stage 3, we teach the principles of Human, Physical and Environmental Geography. The topics we cover allows pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of their surroundings and extend their knowledge of other places in the world.
- Gain a perspective of the world through mapskills and case study material introduced at Key Stage 3.
- Learn about the ways people have interacted and changed the environment around us through the study of Settlement and Population and migration
- Appreciate the benefits and costs of human interaction with the natural environment via



Year 10 - 3D Modelling to create a Favela (shanty town) as part of Brazil unit

coastal and river management studies, effects of globalisation, and world development.

- Develop a wide range of skills that are required for Geographical enquiry. (which can be applied in other contexts and subjects too)

## Key Stage 4

GCSE Geography focuses on 3 units over the two year course:

### **Year 11**

Unit 1: Understanding our Natural World (40% of overall grade)

Theme A: **River Environments**

Theme B: **Coastal Environments**

Theme C: **Our Changing Weather and Climate**

Theme D: **The Restless Earth**

**Unit 1** is examined in May/June (1hr 30 min) and it is worth **40% of overall grade**

### **Year 12**

Unit 2: Living in our World

Theme A: **Population and Migration**

Theme B: **Changing Urban Areas**

Theme C: **Contrasts in World Development**

Theme D: **Managing our Environment**

**Unit 2** is examined in May/June (1hr 30 min) and it is worth **40% of overall grade**

Unit 3: Fieldwork

In addition to Units 1 and 2, pupils conduct a fieldwork investigation of the River Cladagh in Co Fermanagh and use the data collected to complete a 1-hour Fieldwork paper.

This unit is worth **20% of the overall grade**



Year 9 Japan celebration day (part of thematic unit on Japan)



## Fieldwork



Fieldwork forms an integral part of the subject. It allows pupils at Key Stages 3 and 4 to develop their geographical enquiry skills.

**At Key Stage 3, the Department organises 2 fieldtrips:**

Year 8: A local settlement study of Castledearg

Year 9 : Gortin Glen River investigation

**At Key Stage 4:**

Year 11: An overnight residential in Gortatole outdoor education centre to conduct a river investigation to fulfil the fieldwork element of the course.

A coastal study of Coastal Landforms and Management to the North Coast of Antrim.

Year 12: An Urban fieldtrip to Titanic Quarter Belfast as part of Theme B: Changing Urban Areas (Case Study of urban regeneration)



# Castleberg High School



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