



# Westcliff High School for Boys

## UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

### Careers across the curriculum

#### in GEOGRAPHY

#### Soft Skills Development (these are the skills we are committed to developing in the Careers Department)

<b>All Years</b>	We develop <b>communication and teamwork</b> by planning fieldwork and data collection opportunities throughout the curriculum in Lower School, Middle School and Sixth Form. Students give presentations in class, both individually and as part of a group from Year 7 onwards. Paired and group discussions are a routine part of lessons. Geography pupils articulate their own strengths and interests both in writing and verbally, and will be able to apply those skills within their chosen future profession.
<b>Years 8, 9, Middle School and Sixth Form</b>	We develop <b>time management</b> skills by setting homework tasks which cover a range of timescales from one-off tasks to lengthier projects. Students strengthen their time management ability through regular completion of timed responses and by planning the writing of evidenced arguments.  Sixth Form students complete an Independent Investigation over many months which includes devising an enquiry title, planning a methodology for fieldwork data collection and writing up results as an extended written report of 4000+ words.
<b>Year 9, Middle School and Sixth Form</b>	We develop <b>creative thinking</b> by students taking part in group challenges such as the Trade Game, where they function as a part of a team and work together to achieve a common goal. Pupils are set tasks which require them to apply their understanding to novel situations such as planning a sustainable home of the future.  GCSE pupils are examined on a decision-making exercise which changes its topic every year, thereby requiring flexibility of thinking.  In Sixth Form, students lead the Geography Society and give a range of self-researched presentations.
<b>In Middle School</b>	We develop <b>problem solving</b> by considering core contemporary geographical issues such as climate change and the management of resources. GCSE Geography requires pupils to become familiar with the geographical enquiry process and adapt fieldwork skills to complete primary data collection. In Paper 3 at GCSE, pupils use pre-release examination materials to complete a timed decision-making exercise. Geography pupils are frequently interrogating sources of information such as graphs, statistics, photos and satellite images, and policy documents to gather evidence to solve problems. Pupils use mathematical skills to better understand geographical issues.
<b>In Sixth Form</b>	We develop <b>networking</b> by arranging for students to attend Royal Geographical Society and other lectures in person and online. Some students connect with professionals as part of their Independent Investigation research, whilst Geography Subject Prefects assist at Open Evenings.



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#### Development of Subject Specific Skills which are Relevant to Next Steps / the Workplace

One of the strengths of Geography as an academic subject is the range of skills pupils develop as they study content. Fieldwork skills are developed outside of the classroom through primary data collection. This often requires students to work collaboratively and provides experience relevant to the workplace. Geographers deploy excellent graphical and numeracy skills; students are exposed to a wide range of graphical techniques which help them understand how to present data, including choropleth maps, proportional symbols, flowlines and triangular graphs, as well as many statistical techniques such as Spearman's Rank and chi-squared significance tests.

Geographers have high employment rates because their studies combine technical spatial skills with a broad understanding of global social and environmental issues. While many graduates pursue roles directly related to Geography, such as urban planning or environmental consultancy, a significant portion enter business (including accountancy), finance, and HR sectors. Geography students are constantly engaged in analysis and evaluation and learn to develop arguments supported with data and place-specific evidence and this includes both quantitative data and qualitative information. Geographers are able to make connections between concepts, processes and places by seeing the 'big picture' (synopticity) and this is excellent grounding for many professions, as is the Geographer's ability to write extended reports (most notably in the Independent Investigation), using both primary and secondary (research) sources.

All Geographers gain a strong grounding in cultural sensitivity and social awareness, essential in modern workplaces. By studying Geography, pupils are always practising and enhancing their communication skills, both verbally and in written form, as an integral part of the curriculum. Geography students frequently encounter decision-making and issue-evaluation tasks related to real-world places; for example, GCSE pupils complete an examination where they use evidence to determine whether a new development such as housing or the siting of a facility should be supported or not. Making such informed decisions is an important part of many careers. Pupils are also introduced to Geographical Information Systems and gain an understanding of the role of ICT in many workplaces.

The Geography curriculum at WHSB is designed not only to introduce pupils to this wide array of skills, but also to develop these with time by revisiting them in each division of the School so that pupils are ready for their next steps in education or employment as knowledgeable and skilled young people.

#### Extra-curricular Opportunities

<b>Geography Society</b>	Students gain experience of running a weekly activity, developing their organisational, presentation, research and leadership skills.
<b>Fieldwork Activities</b>	Pupils develop a range of data and information-handling skills.
<b>Overseas Expedition Visits</b>	Students gain the opportunity to travel overseas and apply classroom study in the real-world; this helps pupils to open their minds to different cultures and experiences.



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<b>House Geography Events</b>	These foster collaboration and challenge whilst working towards a common purpose.
<b>Essay Competitions</b>	These enable students to add greater depth to their subject knowledge through independent research and hone their ability to write evidence-informed persuasive arguments.
<b>Lectures (in person and online)</b>	These broaden students' perspectives and subject knowledge and can also present opportunities for networking with subject-relevant professionals.