

13 December 2024



RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support in what has been another busy week. Our Curriculum Spotlight this week is on the Geography Faculty, and I have included a number of reminders of key dates/events as usual.

Christmas activities

Today we have had our Christmas Jumper Day, and thanks to the generosity of the students, we have been able to make a significant donation to Save the Children. At lunch time, we enjoyed our Christmas Dinner. Thank you to our Catering Team who provided an excellent service. Finally, please be reminded that we finish for the Christmas holidays on Friday 20 December at 12.30pm. There will be no lunch service, other than students who receive free school meals, who can collect a 'grab bag' from the dining room. The school bus services have been brought forward to 12.30pm.

Y11 Revision Evening

Ms Sherratt, Deputy Headteacher, has written to parents/carers advising them of the upcoming Y11 Revision Evening on Thursday 9 January. Please sign up for this important event using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/T76bYGYHhh>

Homework

Following feedback, we have updated our homework policy to further support students in using home learning to enhance their progress. An update on the type and frequency of homework being set can be found [here - [Ridgewood School - Homework](#)]. All students will continue to be awarded Responsibility Ridgewood Points for homework completion and from January, Y7-10 students will receive -1 point on ClassCharts for non-completion, contributing to their overall points which are used towards whole school rewards. Y11 students will continue to receive a C3 for non-completion. Most usefully, parents/carers will now be able to view when their child has not completed homework on their ClassCharts profile.

Rewards

All students are currently participating in the Golden Ticket Challenge. All students began with 10 tickets and lost tickets for any behaviour incidents. The raffle will be drawn in each year group assembly next week. Prizes include: Air pods, Kindle, Vouchers for Meadowhall, Vue, Just Eat, JD Sports, Amazon, Chocolate hampers.

Learning Maps

Learning Maps for Half Term 3 will be sent home next week, and will also be available on the school website. Please read and discuss the topics they will be covering with your son/daughter.

Geography Faculty

The Geography Faculty have a diverse, engaging curriculum supported by dedicated faculty and student-centred lessons. The geography intent is focused on being process pros, travelling through the curriculum to places and locations, learning and mastering geographical skills and picking up cultural and geography capital when learning about our diverse and exciting world. The curriculum also offers hands-on fieldwork such as



'Prepare for the road ahead'

Respect

Responsibility

Resilience

studying microclimate, research opportunities, and access to technology like GIS (Digimaps), helping students apply knowledge to real-world problems. By maintaining open communication and adapting to students' needs, the department ensures a supportive and enriching learning environment centred on student voice and engagement.

In Year 7 students are introduced to fundamental processes such as sustainability and natural geological factors like erosion and weathering. Students learning begins with an Important Places topic in which each important place allows students to explore a new country such as Svalbard or Easter Island. By the end of Year 7 students will have experienced physical Geography topics such as protection of coral, landscapes and climate to the complexity of human geography in topics such as settlement and urbanisation.

In Year 8 students continue to build on their geographical knowledge, understanding and application, and start to expand their decision-making skill allowing students to be able to assess and evaluate geographical landscapes, challenges and management. This knowledge, understanding and skill is applied by exploring a mixture of topics across the year including; climate change, Russia, water on land, exhausted resources, glaciers and resources.

In Year 9 we strengthen geographical knowledge, understanding and skill further by applying the sequenced learning to a global scale. Students start Y9 completing a global issues topic which students enjoy covering topical modern world issues and current affairs. Students then have topics including unstable earth, conservation, development, Africa and blueprints for future. This year allows students to explore spatial and temporal scales and develop an enjoyment for the subject which will hopefully lead to students carrying on to KS4.

Across Y10 and 11, all students study for the exam board AQA which includes three papers: Paper 1- Living with the physical environment, Paper 2- Challenges in the human environment and Paper 3-Geographical applications. The students also go on two trips to coastal (Hornsea) and urban (Sheffield) environments to support with the paper 3- Geographical applications exam. Afterschool revision is open to all Y11 students on a Tuesday in N4. A range of revision guides are available to purchase from school on Parent Pay.

In Sixth Form, students' study for the exam board AQA which includes two papers: Paper 1- Physical geography and Paper 2- Human geography. Throughout these papers they explore contemporary topics including: water and carbon, coasts, hazards, changing places, global systems and global governance and population and environment. All the examinations are completed at the end of Y13. The students also go on trips to support the topics of coasts (Cleethorpes) and changing places (York) and their NEA/coursework visit to Scarborough.

Outside the curriculum, the Geography Faculty offers extracurricular activities such as Minecraft Club and Geo Club, which helps students foster a sense of community and prepare students for future careers but also allows students to explore further their passion for Geography. If you have any queries about the Geography curriculum, please do not hesitate to use the 'contact us' facility on the school website, for the attention of Mr Curtis, Curriculum Leader - Geography.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully



Andy Bridge
Headteacher