

GEOGRAPHY

The Geography Department at Calthorpe Park School delivers an ambitious, knowledge-rich curriculum designed to develop students' understanding of the world and their ability to think critically about geographical issues.

The department is committed to high expectations, strong pedagogy and a collaborative team culture that ensures high-quality provision across all year groups



Our Curriculum

The curriculum is structured as a coherent five-year journey.

At Key Stage 3, students follow a wide-ranging programme that introduces them to core geographical concepts, enquiry approaches and global issues. Topics include geographical skills, population and urbanisation, Africa, coastal processes, globalisation, development, hazards, weather and climate, glacial landscapes and contemporary themes explored through 'Geography in the News'. This curriculum establishes a strong foundation in both physical and human geography while also developing map skills, data interpretation and analytical thinking.

At Key Stage 4, the department follows the Edexcel Geography B specification through a three-year model beginning in Year 9. The programme covers a broad range of human and physical geography, including hazardous environments, ecosystems, resource management, development, the UK's changing landscapes and global urban challenges. Students also complete contrasting geographical investigations in both urban and coastal settings. This extended structure allows time for depth of study, systematic of examination skills and regular opportunities for retrieval and consolidation.

Our Results

The department has a strong record of academic success, reflected in consistently high outcomes and sustained improvement across key attainment measures. In 2025, 36.8% of students achieved Grades 9-7, 67.2% achieved Grades 9-5, and **78.4% achieved 9-4**, reflecting sustained improvement and strong performance across key measures.

Performance in extended writing, fieldwork questions and the Decision-Making Exercise remains a notable strength, with clear evidence of improvement in higher -grade outcomes. Girls' attainment has strengthened significantly, and students with lower prior attainment have made strong progress.



Department Strengths and Priorities

Fieldwork is integral to learning across both Key Stages, with enquiry-based investigations embedded throughout Key Stage 3 and dedicated urban and coastal fieldwork at GCSE. The department places a strong emphasis on high-quality resources, modelled extended writing, retrieval practice and explicit exam-technique instruction, including structured frameworks for longer-answer questions. Students also benefit from targeted intervention and tailored support through initiatives such as Calthorpe Extra and focused sessions.

The department is experiencing significant growth in student interest. Geography continues to be one of the most popular option subjects at GCSE, **with 220 students opting for Geography in the current Year 9 cohort**, reflecting strong engagement and confidence in the curriculum.

Current development priorities include strengthening middle-grade outcomes, improving consistently in exam-technique instruction across the team, enhancing boys' progress, expanding metacognitive strategies for revision and planning for the continued growth of large GCSE cohorts as they move through the school