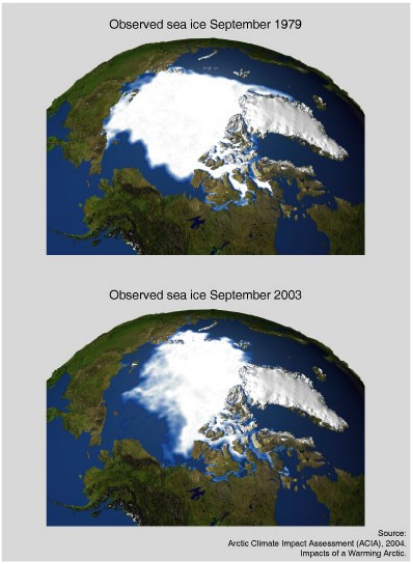
A-level Geography at TBSHS

The world we live in is changing. Geography allows you to see how and why it is changing; how landscapes have formed and have changed and how communities might be affected. The study of geography can enhance communication skills, literacy and numeracy, IT literacy, spatial awareness, team working, problem solving and environmental awareness, making it an attractive offering to universities and potential future employers.

In the first year, we study themes ranging from **Globalisation** and **Regeneration** through to **Tectonic hazards** and **Coasts**.



In **Dynamic Places,** we consider why globalisation has accelerated, examining the role of containerization, social networking, TNCs and Foreign Direct Investment. We will look at actors such as the IMF and WTO and consider China's rise, alongside challenges facing the EU and USA. The impacts of globalisation are huge and contested. We examine the rise of anti-globalization sentiments, migration concerns and protectionism, all topics at the forefront of current news agendas.

We also consider the nature of place and identity through the lens of regeneration, investigating diverse places from San Francisco to the Rust Belt in the USA. The nature of a place can be determined by many factors which are then reflected in election turnout, tensions and inequality. We consider how regeneration is managed, from infrastructure investment, through to more controversial ideas such as fracking and international migration. Rebranding is an initiative we will consider through fieldwork.

In **Dynamic Landscapes**, we delve into tectonic processes, advancing understanding of plate movements and hazards ranging from pyroclastic flows to shockwaves. Hazard profiling will enable a better understanding of vulnerability and resilience. We will also look in-depth at hazard management, mitigation and adaption, including a range of engineering responses.

Coasts is an issue covered in-depth through fieldwork. As well as a consideration of landscape and processes, the impacts of climate change and tectonic activity, coastal retreat and flooding are investigated.

In the second year, we will study key contemporary global issues and explore a range of potential solutions to them:

- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security - the science behind global warming and our insatiable demand for energy. We look at contentious fossil fuel supplies from Canadian tar sands to fracking and the rise of renewables such as hydrogen fuel cells.
- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity - critical to understanding disasters such as the Sahelian drought, and the UK floods of 2007 and 2012. We look at the potential for increasing levels of conflict and the need for sustainable management solutions.
- Superpower Geographies - includes an examination of change from the British Empire through to the rise of the BRICSs and G20. We look at the role of NAFTA, NATO and the UN Security Council and increasing tensions over territory, for example in the Arctic and in Ukraine, alongside challenges to existing superpowers between now and 2050.
- Development: Health, Human Rights and Intervention - includes a consideration of international human-rights law through to the War on Terror, the success of aid, from Haiti through to Ebola and the role of organizations such as Amnesty and Human Rights Watch.

Independent Investigation

This can be undertaken on any topic related to the course and must include fieldwork.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Physical. 30%. 2h15

Paper 2: Human. 30%. 2h15

Paper 3: Synoptic Investigation of a contemporary issue. 20%. 2h15

Independent Investigation:

Non-examined. 20%. 3000-4000 words.