

# A LEVEL GEOLOGY



# GEOLOGY

The world is complex and dynamic, with the landscapes, rocks and ecosystems around us interacting with one another in an ever changing environment. A Level Geology will give you the opportunity to explore these concepts, studying how the Earth came into existence, discover the processes behind volcanoes, earthquakes, and climate change while allowing you to gain first-hand experience of practical geology.

## WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT?

The Geology course follows the OCR A Level specification. It is now linear and your overall grade will come from the exams in the second year. As a science subject your grade will also be awarded alongside a practical endorsement to show you have learnt the necessary skills to be a field and laboratory geologist – a qualification some university courses now require for entry.

The course will include study of space, how the Earth formed, how rock form, and how plate tectonics operate. You will be expected to handle, examine and analyse rock, mineral and fossil specimens as well as getting into the field. Geology of the Human Environment is also a key aspect of the course, focusing on geological hazards such as volcanoes and landslides, as well as exploration of oil, coal and gas.



You will also learn how to interpret the geological record, looking at past environments, evolutionary changes through time and how the fossil record can help identify changes in climate.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL YOU LEARN?

Geology is both a practical and theoretical science that will allow you to acquire a host of transferable skills that will be invaluable in your future studies or career, including how to evaluate sources of information, interpret written and physical resources, use scientific techniques and develop an understanding of the link between theory and experiment.

## A LEVEL ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed by three written examinations in the summer of year 2.

Paper 1- Fundamentals of Geology  
110 Marks Written Paper  
2 hours 15 minutes (41% of qualification)

Paper 2- Scientific Literacy in Geology  
100 Marks Written Paper (37% of qualification)  
2 hours 15 minutes

Paper 3- Practical Skills in Geology  
60 marks written paper (22% of qualification)  
1 hour 30 minutes

## WHY TAKE A LEVEL GEOLOGY?

In the UK there is a severe shortage of geologists and the profession is seeking more people to go into the field. Average salaries in this industry are one of the highest in the country and there are opportunities to travel and explore the world.

## WHERE DO A LEVEL GEOLOGY STUDENTS GO AFTER THEY COMPLETE THE COURSE?

Geology A Level is useful for anyone considering a degree course in the Geosciences (including oceanography) as well as Archaeological, Biological, Chemical, Environmental and Physical Sciences. The knowledge and skills that you acquire will also be relevant for careers in land management, town planning, mining and building, heritage and environmental science.

## WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

- Minimum of Grade 5 in a GCSE Science.
- Minimum Grade 5 in Maths.



## WHAT IF I DON'T MEET THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR A LEVEL GEOLOGY?

Please come and talk to a geology teacher and we can explain your options.

## EDUCATIONAL VISITS/ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

You will be expected to undertake at least 4 days of fieldwork over the two years- this is an exam board requirement. You will also be invited to guest lectures by experienced geologists in the College. We have also been regional winners in the yearly national Geological Challenge competition, getting through to the national competition in London so there is opportunity to contest your skills against other Geologists nationally.

Any one day field excursions in year one will incur nominal travelling expenses. We will be visiting the famous Dorset Coastline in November of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Costs for this will be approximately £380 and is a key part of the course, preparing you for the practical exam and allowing you to complete your practical endorsement. Optional opportunities to Iceland are also planned for second years.

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### **CONTACT US:**

Telephone: 01905 362600

Email: [enquiries@wsfc.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@wsfc.ac.uk)