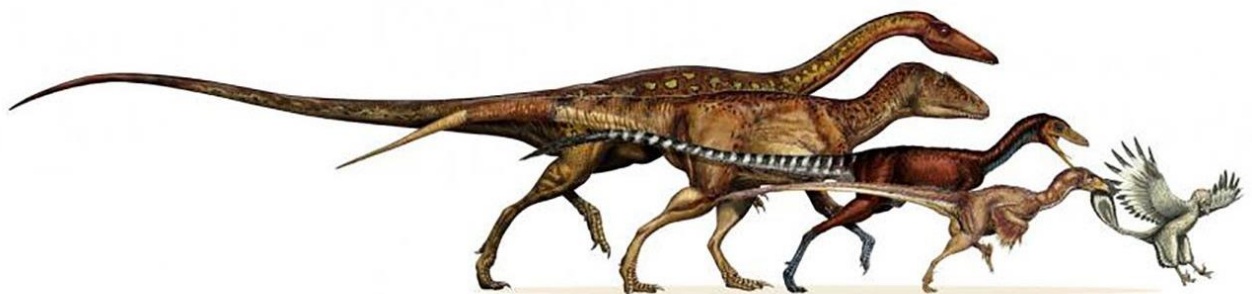


A LEVEL GEOLOGY



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.

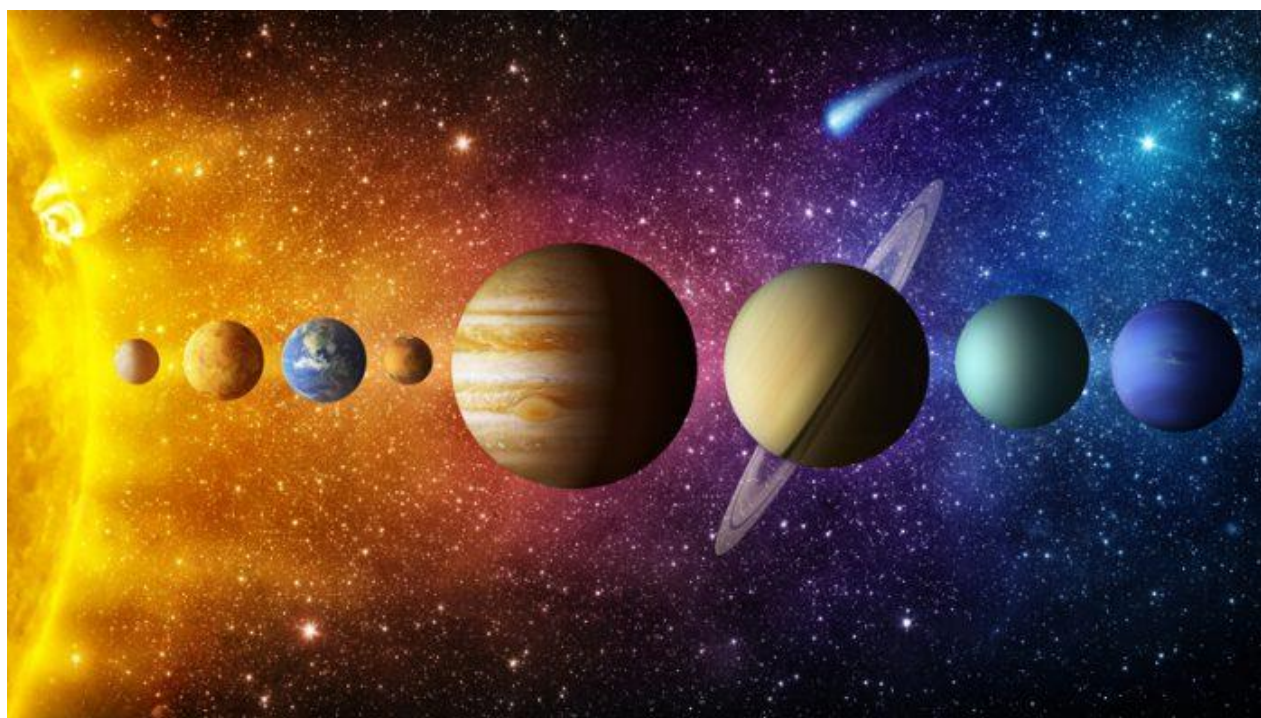
WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT?

The Geology course follows the OCR A Level specification. 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. Other than pure sciences such as Biology, Chemistry or Physics; Geology is the only subject that offers the practical endorsement.

The course will include study of space, our solar system, how the Earth formed, how rocks form, and how plate tectonics operate. Questions like why the Earth has a magnetic field, or where gold comes from will be some of the aspects we will look at.

Geology of the Human Environment is also a key feature of the course, focusing on geological hazards such as volcanoes and landslides, as well as exploration of oil, coal and gas.

Students will also look at the evolution of life, mass extinctions and of course the fossil record! This will involve the study of the first life on Earth all the way through to mighty dinosaurs and their evolution to modern birds.



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 highly sought after in a range of careers. With fieldwork and lab work alongside topical lessons, students gain interpretation skills and confidence in laboratory experiments. You will have the opportunity to use a wide range of laboratory equipment, GIS systems and field monitoring equipment.

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. Geology combines well with engineering, physics and maths, but is also equally at home with Environmental Science or Chemistry.

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. However, we try to get our Geologists out as much as we can offering a range of optional trips; from Iceland, Sicily to Costa Rica. Students also enjoy visiting the Natural History Museum. We have also been frequent 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 in London.

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 2nd 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 Sicily's volcanoes are also currently being planned for March 2022.

CONTACT US:

Telephone: 01905 362600

Email: enquiries@wsfc.ac.uk