Geography at Emanuel
The Geography department

The Geography department at Emanuel aims to encourage in all pupils a curiosity about the world around them, and the knowledge and skills to describe and understand it. The department comprises four full-time specialist teachers and one part-time teacher. We are a thriving and happy department and hold a high profile within the school. Teaching is mainly based in the new, state-of-the-art Dacre Centre for Art & Humanities building which opened in 2017.

Lower School curriculum

In the lower school, Years 6, 7 and 8 follow the department’s own Geography syllabus and flexible schemes of work which cover a variety of topics within both physical and human geography, using the enquiry approach. Our aim is to help all pupils understand the world in which they live. We equip our students with the skills, knowledge and understanding to enable them to deal with an increasingly complex world. Many skills developed in Geography are valuable transferable life skills such as map work, data handling, ICT and problem solving. These are introduced at all levels through classwork and fieldwork.
In Years 9, 10 and 11 all pupils follow the Edexcel A GCSE course. In Year 9 each pupil has two lessons of Geography per week and pupils are introduced to the GCSE specification in the spring term. In Years 10 and 11 pupils have two double lessons per week. Pupils are taught in mixed ability groups. Geography is a popular GCSE option and we currently have three sets in Year 10 and three sets in Year 11.

At A level we offer the Edexcel specification, where each student is taught by two teachers who are specialists in their side of the course. The course aims to develop in candidates a breadth and depth of subject knowledge, together with the required communication, mathematical and practical skills. A level students are given opportunities to extend their knowledge and interest in the subject beyond the classroom in a variety of ways including visits by speakers and attendance at lectures across London. Currently we have four sets in A Level Geography.
Fieldwork

The department firmly believes in using visits to enrich and enhance pupil understanding. This might be abroad, somewhere in the UK, the local area or even outside the classroom within the school grounds. In the lower school we offer day trips in the local area such as Kew Gardens. For GCSE coursework we run a three-day residential trip to Swanage FSC. At A level there is a residential five-day trip to Barcelona FSC where students collect data for their individual coursework project. The department regularly runs other geographical trips within London such as Hackney Wick or the Olympic Park, and abroad to widen pupils’ understanding of the world to countries such as Iceland, Sicily and Morocco.