



18th September 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope your daughters are looking forward to their Geography course. In response to student feedback and analysis of the recent examinations, we have been reviewing the syllabus the students will follow. We have also consulted with our colleagues at our partner school as students pursuing the subject at A-level might study it at either College.

I am pleased to be able to share with you, that we have made the decision to move from AQA to Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) in Geography. Our department has consistently delivered strong results. The change in specification is a strategic move to align with our strengths and to further adapt learning experiences suited to our students.

One of the drivers for this is the style of examination questions, these are more accessible with the new course as the examination must be suitable for students who may not have English as a first language.

This allows students to be able to demonstrate their understanding in Geography with less of the time spent decoding the demands of the question. The examination grades are broadly similar in percentage terms between the two syllabi but as the content is slightly less there should be more time available to focus on field work and broader discussions, allowing for deeper understanding and interest in the subject. The shift to more time with the field work also supports those moving on to A-level Geography as the coursework at A-level will be more familiar.

In addition to the above, students will have one fewer final examination and this addresses one of the main concerns of many students following the feedback received, reducing the load from 3 examinations to 2 examinations.

We understand that change can be accompanied by concerns or queries, and we are more than happy to discuss this transition further. Your trust in our decisions is invaluable, and we remain committed to ensuring the highest standards of education for our students. We appreciate your understanding and continued support.

Kindest regards

Serena Ace-Hopkins

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Head of Geography

