

Strategic Overview of Curriculum

Geography

Curriculum Intent

Principles and Purpose of the Geography Curriculum.

The geography curriculum will ensure that pupils can make sense of the world around them. The curriculum will provide pupils with knowledge of a range of diverse places, people, resources, natural and human environments, and a deep understanding of the Earth's physical and human processes. The geography curriculum will ensure that pupils can think like geographers, empowering them to critically engage with current and future geographical debates beyond the classroom.

Inspiring curiosity

Students will have the opportunity to develop their curiosity for the natural and human worlds through the use of geographical resources, such as atlases, Ordnance Survey maps, satellite imaging, photographs and GIS. They will also have the opportunity to test hypotheses gathered through study of these stimuli during our geographical investigations units, as a means of experiential learning.

Igniting a sense of care and responsibility

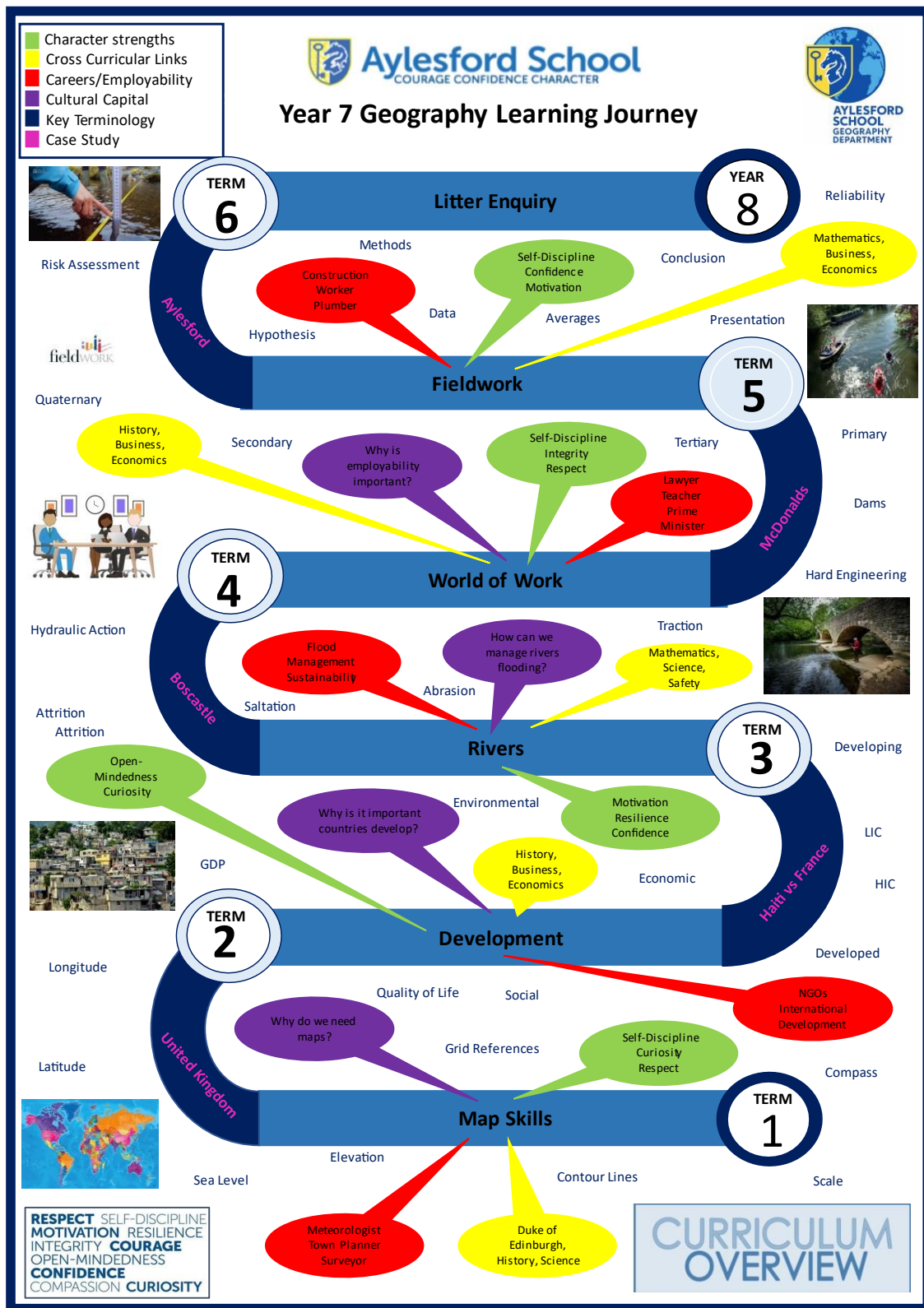
Students will discuss and debate the 'big questions' that shape the future of our planet. Through the study of both physical and human aspects of geography, they will understand that all humans have a level of responsibility for caring for the Earth and all its inhabitants, as our actions directly and indirectly impact its health.

Ensuring Sustainability

Students will consider all aspects of sustainability, linking economic and social factors to the environment. They will learn a wide range of issues linking to sustainability and will be challenged to link these concepts together, thinking synoptically. This is important, as ensuring sustainability for future generations is complex in nature, requiring a breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding.

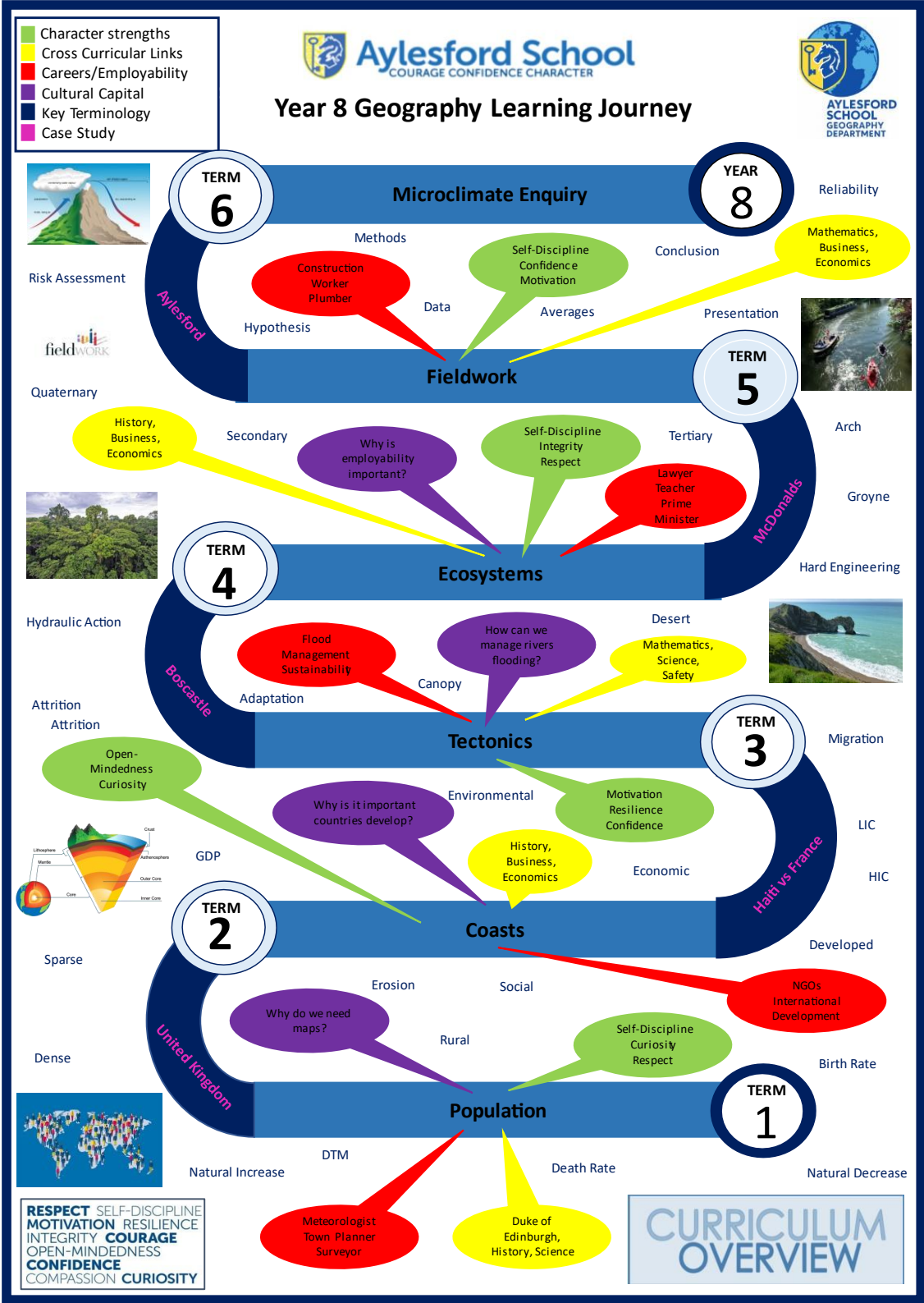
Year 7 Overview

Subject Intent	Students arrive in Year 7 fresh-faced and eager to explore the world around them, and we build on this curiosity by introducing them to the key geographical knowledge and skills that underpin the subject. Through topics including map skills, development, rivers, and the world of work, students develop an understanding of the physical and human processes that shape our planet while learning to think critically about local, national, and global issues. The requirements of the National Curriculum for Geography are fully met, and we aim to provide engaging, real-world learning experiences that bring geography to life and build strong foundations for future study. This culminates in a local fieldwork enquiry investigating litter, where students apply their knowledge and geographical skills in a meaningful context, preparing them for the challenge and rigour of GCSE Geography and beyond.				
Rationale	Taking the knowledge and skills developed at KS2 as a starting point, our Key Stage 3 Geography curriculum follows the United Learning curriculum, providing students with a broad and ambitious understanding of the world and the processes that shape it. Through the study of both physical and human geography, students develop core geographical skills including map interpretation, data analysis, geographical enquiry, and fieldwork, while building confidence in applying their knowledge to real-world issues at local, national, and global scales. As students’ progress through the curriculum, they make connections between topics, deepen their understanding of geographical concepts, and develop wider life skills such as critical thinking, communication, problem-solving, and informed decision-making, preparing them for success at GCSE Geography and beyond.				
Topics					
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Map Skills	Development	Rivers	World of Work	Fieldwork	Litter Enquiry
Assessment					
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
End of Topic Test – Map Skills	Formative Assessment – Poster on Development	End of Topic Test - Rivers	Formative Assessment – McDonalds Roleplay	End of Topic Test	End of Year Assessment
Homework					
Homework in Geography is designed to support, consolidate, and extend learning beyond the classroom. Students complete fortnightly Educake quizzes to revisit key knowledge and strengthen long-term retention, while targeted revision materials are provided in preparation for each summative assessment. In addition, each term students are given a creative homework task, allowing them to apply their geographical understanding in an engaging and imaginative way. These tasks may include designing a river drainage basin model, creating informative posters, producing revision resources, or completing other geography-based projects that encourage independent learning, creativity, and deeper subject engagement.					



Year 8 Overview

Subject Intent	As students move into Year 8, they build upon the geographical knowledge and skills developed in Year 7, exploring a range of increasingly complex physical and human geography topics. Through the study of population, coasts, tectonic hazards, and ecosystems, students deepen their understanding of the dynamic processes that shape both natural environments and human communities across the world. The curriculum encourages students to think critically about global challenges and the interactions between people and the environment, while continuing to develop key geographical skills such as map interpretation, data analysis, and enquiry. Learning is brought to life through a local microclimate fieldwork enquiry, where students collect, analyse, and evaluate real-world data, further developing their investigative skills and preparing them for the challenge and rigour of GCSE Geography and beyond.				
Rationale	For Year 8, students build upon the knowledge and skills developed in Year 7 through the United Learning Geography curriculum, broadening their understanding of the physical and human processes that shape our world. Through the study of population, coasts, tectonic hazards, and ecosystems, students develop a deeper understanding of how people interact with their environments and how natural processes influence life on Earth. Core geographical skills, including map interpretation, data analysis, geographical enquiry, and fieldwork, continue to be refined and applied to increasingly complex issues at local, national, and global scales. As students progress through the curriculum, they make connections between topics, strengthen their geographical thinking, and further develop wider life skills such as critical thinking, communication, problem-solving, and informed decision-making, preparing them for the demands of GCSE Geography and beyond.				
Topics					
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Population	Coasts	Tectonics	Ecosystems	Fieldwork	Microclimate Enquiry
Assessment					
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
End of Topic Test – Population	Formative Assessment – Poster on Coasts	End of Topic Test - Tectonics	Formative Assessment – Presentation	End of Topic Test	End of Year Assessment
Homework					
Homework in Geography is designed to reinforce and extend learning beyond the classroom. Students complete fortnightly Educake quizzes to revisit key knowledge and prepare for assessments using targeted revision materials. Each term, students also complete a creative homework task, such as designing models, creating posters, or producing revision resources, encouraging independent learning and deeper engagement with the subject.					



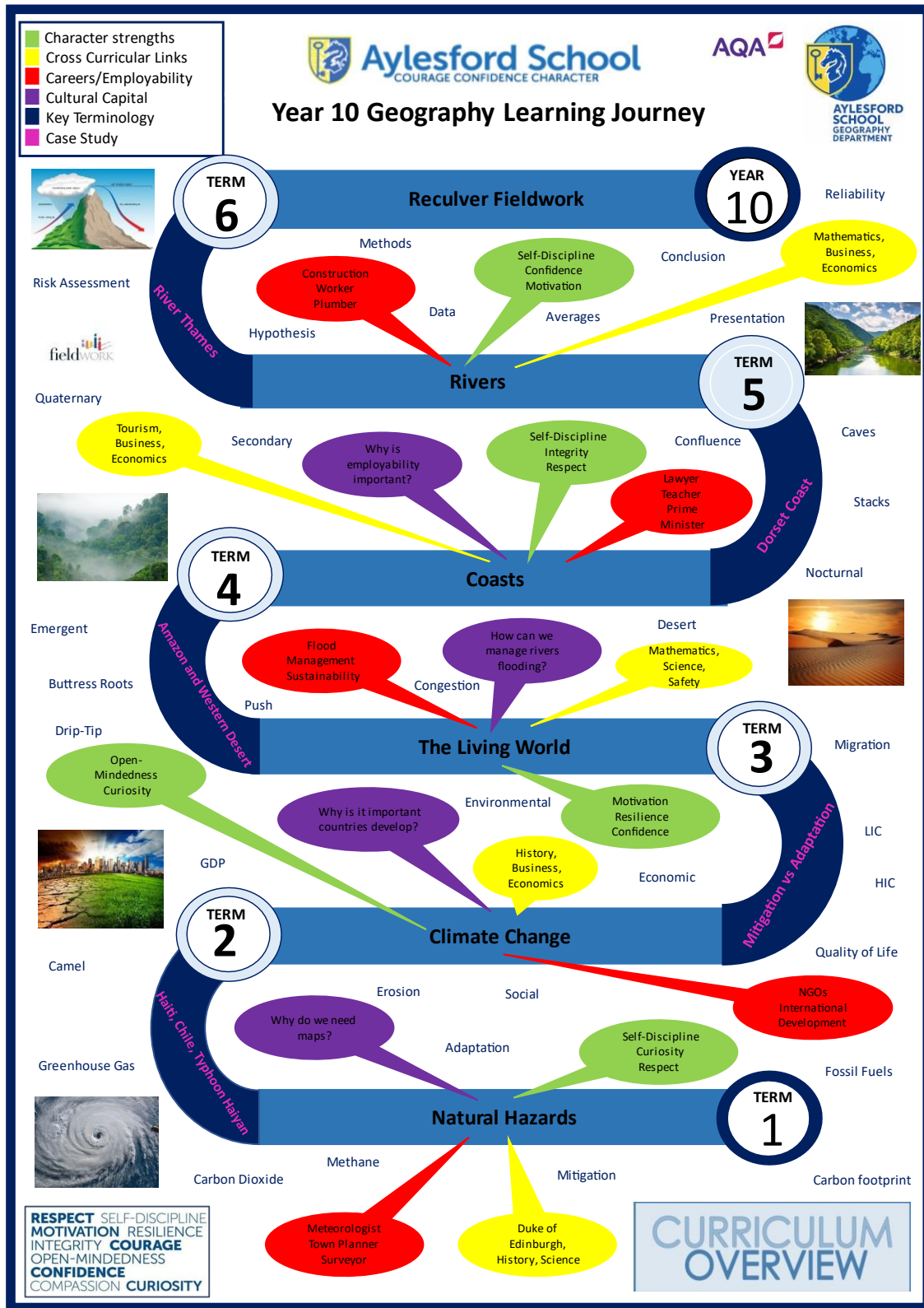
Year 9 Overview

Subject Intent	As students move into Year 9, they continue to build upon the geographical knowledge and skills developed in previous years through the study of a range of contemporary global issues. Through topics including climate change, life in an emerging country, issues of urbanisation, and the Middle East, students develop a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing people and environments around the world. The curriculum encourages students to think critically about sustainability, development, and global interconnectedness while further refining key geographical skills such as map interpretation, data analysis, and geographical enquiry. Learning is brought to life through a sustainability fieldwork enquiry, where students collect, analyse, and evaluate real-world data, strengthening their investigative skills and preparing them for the challenge and rigour of GCSE Geography and beyond.				
Rationale	For Year 9, students build on the knowledge and skills developed in Years 7 and 8 through the United Learning Geography curriculum. Through the study of climate change, life in an emerging country, urbanisation, and the Middle East, students deepen their understanding of contemporary global issues and the complex relationships between people, places, and environments. Core geographical skills, including map interpretation, data analysis, fieldwork, and geographical enquiry, continue to be developed and applied to real-world contexts. As students progress through the curriculum, they strengthen their geographical thinking, make links between topics, and further develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, preparing them for the demands of GCSE Geography and beyond.				
Topics					
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Climate Change	Life in an Emerging Country	Issues of Urbanisation	Middle East	Fieldwork	Sustainability Enquiry
Assessment					
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
End of Topic Test – Climate Change	Formative Assessment – Poster on Rio de Janeiro	End of Topic Test - Urbanisation	Formative Assessment – Decision Making	End of Topic Test	End of Year Assessment
Homework					
Homework in Geography is designed to reinforce and extend learning beyond the classroom. Students complete fortnightly Educake quizzes to revisit key knowledge and prepare for assessments using targeted revision materials. Each term, students also complete a creative homework task, such as designing models, creating posters, or producing revision resources, encouraging independent learning and deeper engagement with the subject.					



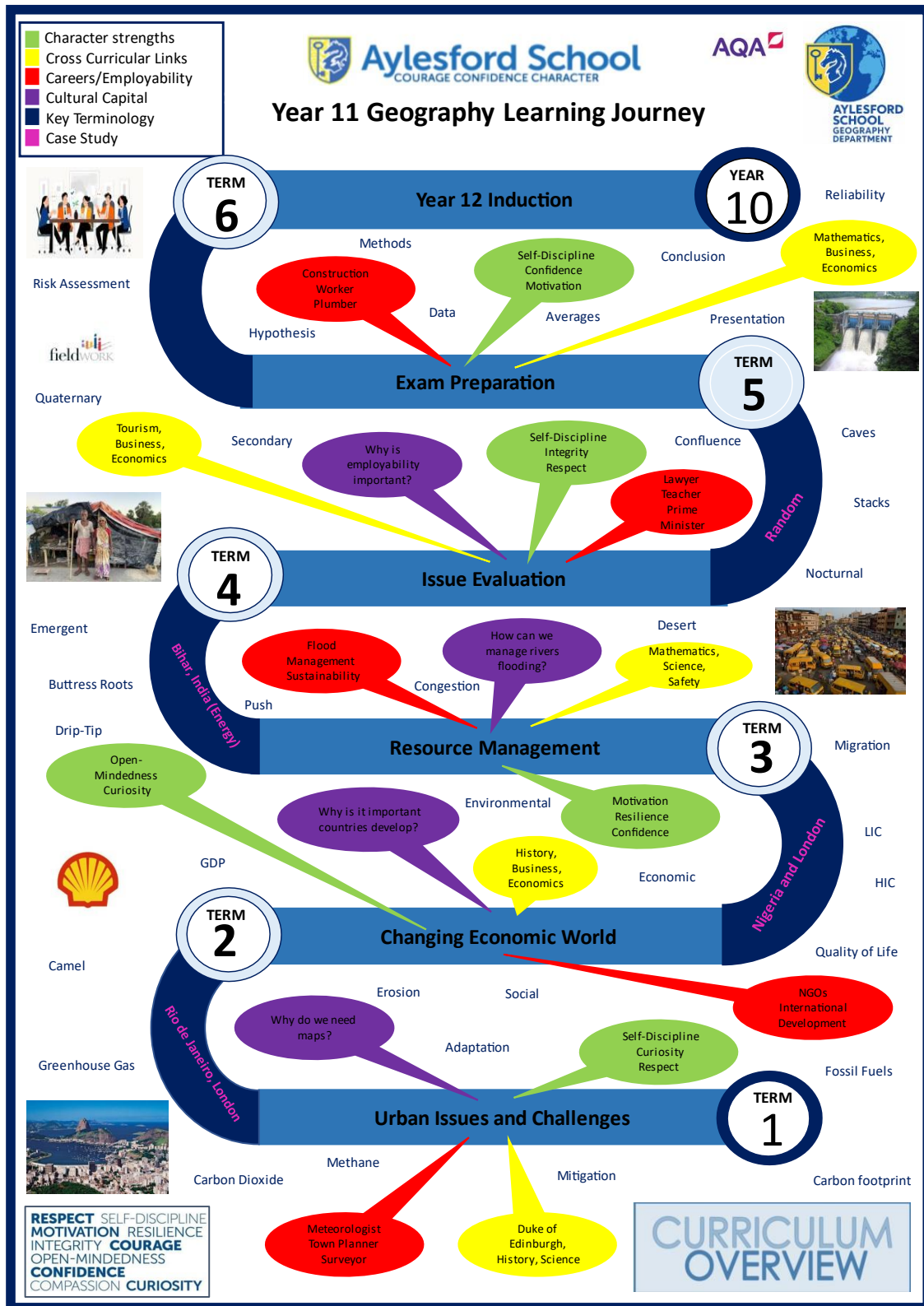
Year 10 Overview

Subject Intent	As students begin GCSE Geography in Year 10, they follow the AQA Geography specification, building on the knowledge and skills developed throughout Key Stage 3. Students start by exploring natural hazards before studying ecosystems through tropical rainforests and hot deserts, followed by rivers and coastal landscapes. Throughout the year, students develop a deeper understanding of the physical processes that shape our planet while applying geographical concepts to real-world case studies from around the world. Core skills, including map interpretation, data analysis, extended writing, and geographical enquiry, are embedded throughout the curriculum. Learning is brought to life through a compulsory fieldwork investigation at Reculver, where students explore coastal management and collect primary data, preparing them for the challenges of GCSE examinations and beyond.				
Rationale	For Year 10, students begin the AQA GCSE Geography course, building upon the knowledge and skills developed throughout Key Stage 3. Through the study of natural hazards, ecosystems, rivers, and coasts, students develop a deeper understanding of the physical processes that shape our world and the ways in which people interact with these environments. Core geographical skills, including map interpretation, data analysis, fieldwork, geographical enquiry, and extended writing, are further developed and applied to a range of real-world contexts. As students progress through the curriculum, they strengthen their geographical understanding, make connections between topics, and develop the analytical and evaluative skills required for success at GCSE Geography and beyond.				
Topics					
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Living with Natural Hazards	Climate Change	Living World – Tropical Rainforests and Hot Deserts	Rivers	Coasts	Fieldwork
Assessment					
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
End of Topic Test – Natural Hazards	End of Topic Test – Climate Change	End of Topic Test – Living World	End of Topic Test - Rivers	End of Topic Test - Coasts	PPE 1 – 2025 Paper
Homework					
Homework in GCSE Geography is designed to reinforce learning and support exam success. Students complete regular Educake quizzes, exam-style questions, and revision activities to develop their knowledge and exam technique. Creative revision tasks, such as posters and knowledge organisers, encourage independent study, while optional Teams and half-term revision sessions provide additional support throughout the course.					



Year 11 Overview

Subject Intent	For Year 11, students continue their studies of the AQA GCSE Geography course, focusing on the human geography and geographical applications components of the specification. Through the study of urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, and resource management with a focus on energy, students develop a deeper understanding of the social, economic, and environmental challenges facing communities around the world. Core geographical skills, including data interpretation, analysis, evaluation, and extended writing, are further refined and applied to real-world issues. In the final stages of the course, students complete the pre-release Issue Evaluation, developing their ability to analyse evidence, consider different viewpoints, and make informed judgements, preparing them for GCSE examinations and future study.				
Rationale	For Year 11, students continue the AQA GCSE Geography course, building on the knowledge and skills developed in Year 10. Through the study of urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, and resource management, students deepen their understanding of contemporary geographical issues and global challenges. Core geographical skills, including data analysis, evaluation, and extended writing, are further developed and applied to real-world contexts. As students progress through the curriculum, they strengthen their geographical understanding and prepare for success in their GCSE examinations and beyond.				
Topics					
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Issues of Urbanisation	Changing Economic World	Resource Management	Issue Evaluation	Revision	
Assessment					
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
End of Topic Test – Urbanisation PPE 2 – Paper 1	End of Topic Test – CEW (Nigeria)	End of Topic Test – Resource Management PPE 3 – Paper 1/2	End of Topic Test – Issue Evaluation		
Homework					
Homework in GCSE Geography is designed to reinforce learning and support exam success. Students complete regular Educake quizzes, exam-style questions, and revision activities to develop their knowledge and exam technique. Creative revision tasks, such as posters and knowledge organisers, encourage independent study, while optional Teams and half-term revision sessions provide additional support throughout the course.					



Year 12/13 Overview

Subject Intent	As students begin A-Level Geography, they follow the AQA specification, building on their GCSE studies through a carefully planned transition programme supported by a summer homework pack. In Year 12, students study Coasts, Contemporary Urban Environments, Hazards, and Changing Places, while developing advanced geographical skills in analysis, evaluation, fieldwork, and extended writing before beginning their independent NEA investigation. In Year 13, students complete the course through the study of Global Systems and Global Governance, alongside Water and Carbon Cycles, before focusing on NEA completion, revision, and examination preparation. Throughout the course, students deepen their understanding of complex geographical issues and develop the independent learning skills required for higher education and beyond.				
Rationale	At Key Stage 5, students follow the AQA A-Level Geography specification, building on the knowledge and skills developed at GCSE while engaging with increasingly complex geographical concepts and debates. Through the study of both physical and human geography, students develop a deeper understanding of the processes and interactions that shape our world at local, national, and global scales. Core geographical skills, including data analysis, critical thinking, fieldwork, evaluation, and extended academic writing, are embedded throughout the curriculum. As students progress through the course, they make connections between topics, develop independence through the completion of their NEA, and strengthen the analytical and problem-solving skills required for success in higher education and future careers.				
Topics – Y12 / Y13					
Term 1 / Term 2		Term 3 / Term 4		Term 5 / Term 6	
Coasts and Contemporary Urban Environments		Hazards and Changing Places		NEA/Coursework	
Global Systems and Water and Carbon		Revision and NEA Final Submissions			
Assessment					
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Mixture of 4-, 6- and 9-Mark Questions	Mixture of 4-, 6- and 9-Mark Questions	Mixture of 4-, 6- and 9-Mark Questions	Mixture of 4-, 6- and 9-Mark Questions	Mixture of 4-, 6- and 9-Mark Questions	Mixture of 4-, 6- and 9-Mark Questions
20 Mark Question	Past Paper (1 and 2)	20 Mark Question	Past Papers (1 and 2)	20 Mark Question	Past Papers (1 and 2)

Key Stage 5 Geography Independent Study Expectations

To be successful at A-Level Geography, students are expected to complete a minimum of 4 hours of independent study each week outside of lessons. Independent study is essential in developing the knowledge, skills, and academic independence required for success at A-Level, university, and future careers. Approximately 75% of independent study should focus on consolidating and extending geographical knowledge, while 25% should focus on developing geographical skills, including data analysis, interpretation, fieldwork, critical thinking, and exam technique.

Independent Study Activity	Examples
Knowledge Consolidation	Reviewing lesson notes, creating flashcards, completing retrieval practice, updating knowledge organisers, producing mind maps, and revisiting key case studies.
Wider Reading & Research	Reading news articles, Geography Review, National Geographic, BBC News, The Guardian, academic journals, podcasts, documentaries, and researching contemporary geographical issues.
Exam Practice	Completing exam questions, planning essays, practising 6-, 9-, 12-, and 20-mark responses, self-assessment, and acting on teacher feedback.
Geographical Skills Development (25%)	Interpreting graphs, maps, and GIS data; analysing fieldwork data; practising statistical techniques; evaluating sources; constructing conclusions; and improving data presentation skills.
NEA / Independent Enquiry	Conducting background research, analysing data, reading literature, refining methodology, or developing independent geographical investigations.
Reflection and Target Setting	Reviewing assessment feedback, identifying misconceptions, and setting targets for future improvement.

Total Independent Study Time: 4 Hours Per Week



Geography References
Key Stage 2 National Curriculum https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7c1ecae5274a1f5cc75e97/PRIMARY_national_curriculum - Geography.pdf
Key Stage 3 National Curriculum https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7b8699ed915d131105fd16/SECONDARY_national_curriculum - Geography.pdf https://www.glenmoorandwinton.org.uk/glenmoor/curriculum/curriculum-by-subject/geography
Key Stage 4 National Curriculum/AQA Curriculum https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7b8699ed915d131105fd16/SECONDARY_national_curriculum - Geography.pdf https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/specification/subject-content
Key Stage 5 Curriculum AQA https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/a-level/geography-7037/specification/specification-at-a-glance
Further reading and national bodies/ homework log in's Educake (Main Homework): https://my.educake.co.uk/student-login BBC Bitesize (Revision Materials): https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zkw76sg Revision Videos: https://www.youtube.com/@tutor2u-official