Subject: Year 9 Geography

Year 9 Curriculum Intent: The geography department aims to provide year 9 students with a challenging and diverse curriculum. In year 9 our focus is on understanding how human and physical processes interact to influence, and change landscapes, environments, and the climate; and how human activity relies on effective functioning of natural systems. This 'big idea' is supported by the foundational knowledge and skills developed during years 7 and 8. Students begin in our local area studying Etherow Country park as an example of a small-scale ecosystem. A wide range of biotic and abiotic features are analysed with the concept of interdependence made explicit by analysing of a range of physical and human influences. Global comparisons are then made through the study of the Tropical Rainforest and Hot Desert biome. The 'big idea' that human activity depends on effective ecosystem functioning is explored through deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest and tourism in the Thar Desert. In both locations, economic activity depends on the effective conservation of this fragile ecosystem. Students are encouraged to critically evaluate why this sustainable approach is often overlooked in the pursuit of rapid economic growth. Students then return to the U.K to consider the important role water has in shaping the physical landscape of the U.K both in terms of rivers and our extensive coastlines. Year 9 students are continually asked to reflect on how physical processes have influenced human activity and equally how human activity can influence physical processes. Students are asked to complete a variety of decision-making exercises where the sustainability of strategies to manage river flooding and coastal erosion are assessed.

	Scheme 1: Ecosystems	Scheme 2: Tropical Rainforests	Scheme 3: Hot Deserts	Scheme 4: River Landscapes in the U.K	Scheme 5: Coastal Landscapes in the U.K
Acquire	What is an ecosystem? Biotic and abiotic components. Producers, consumers and decomposers. Physical and human influences on ecosystems. Global biomes.	Distribution of Tropical Rainforests. Climate of Tropical Rainforests. Plant and animal adaptations. Causes of deforestation in the Amazon Impacts of deforestation in the Amazon. Sustainable management of the Amazon.	Distribution of Hot Deserts. Climate of Hot Deserts. Plant and animal adaptations. Opportunities and Challenges to human development in the Thar Desert. What is desertification? Physical and Human causes of desertification. Managing desertification in the Sahel region of Africa.	Characteristics of the upper, middle and lower courses of a river. Processes of erosion, transportation and deposition. Landforms of erosion and deposition. Physical and human factors influencing flooding. Impacts of flooding. Management of flooding.	Characteristics of constructive and destructive waves Processes of erosion, transportation and deposition. Landforms of erosion and deposition. How geology influences the risk of coastal erosion. Impacts of coastal flooding and erosion. Management of coastal flooding and erosion.

Apply	Food chain / web interpretation. Climate graph analysis. Factors influencing biomass. Distribution of global biomes.	Distribution of Tropical rainforests Climate graph analysis. Nutrient cycling in the Rainforest. Understanding a range of stakeholder views on deforestation. Evaluation of strategies to sustainably manage the Amazon rainforest.	Distribution of Hot Deserts. Climate graph analysis. Nutrient cycling in Hot Deserts. Understanding how opportunities and challenges to development in the Thar are influenced by location and climate. Evaluation of strategies to sustainably manage the risk of desertification in the Sahel region of Africa.	Explaining how river landforms change over time due to fluvial processes. Analysis of flood hydrographs. Analysis of O.S maps. Evaluation of strategies to manage river flooding.	Explaining the influence of constructive and destructive waves on beach profiles. Explaining how geology influences mass movement and coastal landforms. Analysis of O.S maps Evaluation of strategies to manage coastal flooding / erosion
Vocabulary	Ecosystem Biotic Abiotic Producer Consumer Decomposer Interdependence Biome Climate Etherow Country Park	Humid Biodiverse Convectional rainfall Leaching Adaptations Deforestation Subsistence Commercial Sustainable Amazon	Diurnal Infertile Hadley cell Adaptations Opportunities Challenges Irrigation Desertification Semi-arid Sahel	Long profile Valley Channel Process Landform Sediment Discharge Hydrograph Hard engineering Soft engineering	Coastline Constructive Destructive Swash Backwash Landform Process Geology Hard engineering Soft engineering
Assessment	Milestone 1: **‘**All features of ecosystems are linked’ (6 marks)	Milestone 2: ‘Describe and explain the features of the vegetation shown (6 marks) Milestone 3: Term 1 exam on Ecosystems and Rainforests to provide progress judgement for monitoring window.	Milestone 4: ‘To what extent does your chosen environment provide both opportunities and challenges to human development?’ (6 marks)	Milestone 5: ‘Explain how the landforms shown are created by physical processes’ (6 marks) Milestone 6: End of year exam to provide progress judgement for monitoring window.	Milestone 7: ‘Explain how the sea defences shown help to protect the coastline from erosion (4 marks)