

Earth Science (Geology) (Eduqas)

We are pleased that you are planning to study Earth Science at A level at SWCHS.

There are a number of things that you can do to help make the best possible start to the course in September:

Develop as an earth scientist! – through general reading around/ watching videos/listening to podcasts etc to develop your geological knowledge and understanding



Become a News Geohound! Geological processes continue on our planet even if we are in Lockdown! Watch the news for geological events around the world – earthquakes, volcanoes, climate change, the use of geological resources, impacts of humans on our planet. The best options are BBC News between 6am-9am or at 6pm, or 10pm. Or get on the BBC news app? Channel 4 News (7-8pm) is also good. Other news websites such as the Guardian, The Independent, The Times are useful. Create a 'Geology in the News' diary of all things that are relevant to what you will be studying! *Set up a paper or virtual scrapbook and use it to keep headlines from newspaper articles, printouts of online articles, or just record summaries of the following: what are the key things that the article is telling you about; what part of Geology does this link to; are there any keywords that you need to look into more or you feel would be useful for your studies? Bring this with you for your first lesson in the September.*



Follow us on Twitter! @SWCHSGeology We use this to post all sorts of up-to-date information about geology, geological events around the world, careers in geology, field trips – and lots, lots more. We are SWCHS's most followed subject-based Twitter site!!

For further information please contact:

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Earth Science (Geology)

Start preparing for the A Level Course. Explore some of the course foundations and topics that you will study in detail in the A Level Earth Science course. There are lots of links below to get you started on this.

To be a great A Level earth scientist you will need to develop excellent practical and observational skills, and also the ability to think synoptically - being able to see how everything that we study in Earth Science links together. Earth Science is a highly topical subject, with many lessons to be learned from the past that will help us to understand present and future environmental challenges such as global climate change.

So What Can You Do To Develop as an Earth Scientist Before September?

We have included below some links to various websites, books and videos that will provide a great way of staying inspired by and engaged with Geology.

PODCASTS:

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/podcasts> This series of podcasts from The Geological Society cover a wide range of topical and historical geological issues. Don't miss out on The Glories of Mud!!

BOOKS:

If you are into reading both fiction and non-fiction, why not try some Geologically-themed books for some summer reading:

'The Earth – An Intimate History'. Richard Fortey (Harper: 0-00-655137-8) *Richard Fortey used to be in charge of the Natural History Museum. He is also a very accessible science writer, and this book provides a fantastic overview of the history of our planet and the evolution of life!*

'A Short History of Nearly Everything'. Bill Bryson (Black Swan: 0-552-99704-8) *Bill Bryson is best-known as a very funny travel writer, but this book is an equally humorous but very well-researched review of great scientific themes, including several geological ones. Relevant to all potential A level science students!*

'Fossils: The Key to the Past'. Richard Fortey (Natural History Museum: 0-565-09163-8) *Another excellent book by Richard Fortey – a 'must read' if you are into fossils!*

'Trilobite!'. Richard Fortey (Flamingo: 0-00-655138-6) *Another very readable Richard Fortey book focusing on just one group of fossils and their discovery – this was a surprising best-seller when it was first published.*

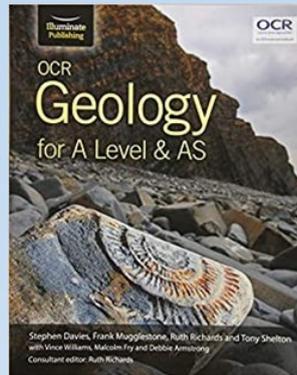
'Remarkable Creatures'. Tracy Chevalier (ISBN: 9780007178384). *A novel based around the life of Mary Anning ('she sells sea shells on the sea shore...') – a pioneer woman in geoscience who battled against the male-dominated scientific establishment of the time*



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Pre Reading

In the A Level Earth Science course you will study The Rock Cycle, plate tectonics, rock forming processes, the evolution of life, long-term climate changes, earth materials and resources, geohazards, the geological evolution of Britain – and much, much more! Why not get ahead of the game and get yourself a copy of the textbook that we use to support the course? Reading up on these topics before the course starts will be excellent preparation!



Geological Documentaries:

There are some great geological documentaries which will help develop your general geographical knowledge and understanding and help you see what an amazing world we live in.

The following are available on BBC iPlayer:

David Attenborough Box Sets- there are 9 amazing boxsets available on BBC iPlayer from David Attenborough exploring our amazing world. For Geology, Planet Earth 1 and Planet Earth 2 are most relevant. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06m42d9>

Expedition Volcano: a two-part documentary in which geologists take part in an expedition to Nyiragongo - one of the world's most dangerous and spectacular volcanoes in the world. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09hlzbb>

Volcano. A fascinating 5 part documentary series where Dr Iain Stewart tells the story of planet Earth, and the role of volcanoes in the development of life on Earth. Covers many 'big themes' in Geology <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008cykg>

Earth Science on the internet:

David Attenborough's 'First Life' – a 2 part BBC series on the early evolution of complex life on our planet. A fascinating introduction to palaeontology – the study of fossils and ancient life. <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/xu7497>

Blood Diamond – a drama that looks at the diamond trade in Sierre Leone, and the diamonds that star are a product of geological processes! Highlights several issues associated with exploiting geological resources.

Other Inspirations

University Geology Departments. A number of these are putting learning resources online at the present time. For example, look for [#HullGeologyOnline](#) on Twitter for links to a range of online lectures and resources

While you are out and about on your permitted Lockdown walks, find out more about some local geological highlights around Saffron Walden on <http://londonpavementgeology.co.uk/geo-sites/> Just zoom in on the map to discover some geological goodies in the local area. We have worked with the curator of this site to input many of the records. The Market Cross and Fountain is worth a field trip in its own right!



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Preparing for the Earth Science A Level

You can do a lot of useful background reading and research into some of the 'big themes' that underpin the WJEC A Level Earth Science course that we follow at SWCHS:

Plate Tectonics – a useful summary provided by The Geological Society –

This will be a good set up from any GCSE work that you have done on this topic to A Level content <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Plate-Tectonics>

Volcanoes – this 'Power of the Planet' video is a great introduction to the work on volcanoes we will cover, including your summer induction task!

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5af4kg>

The Rock Cycle – look for a Factsheet on this and many other course topics produced by The Geological Society at <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/factsheets>

Palaeontology – get to know some of the fossils that you will study on the course at the British Geological Survey: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/time/Fossilfocus/home.html>

We do study dinosaurs, so you can also use this as an excuse to re-watch all of the wonderful original 'Walking With Dinosaurs' programmes. Look out also for the second series, and the original 'Ballad of Big Al'! Dig out those old DVDs!

**WALKING WITH
DINOSAURS**
ORIGINAL SERIES



Keep a record of any activities you have done and notes you have taken and bring them to show us in September!

We look forward to meeting you then.

Mr Oxborrow, Miss Makepeace, Mr Wheeler

