WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?
Geography uses an inquiry approach to assist students to make meaning of their world. It teaches them to respond to questions in a geographically distinctive way, plan an inquiry; collect, evaluate, analyse and interpret information; and suggest responses to what they have learned. They conduct fieldwork, map and interpret data and spatial distributions, and use spatial technologies.

Students develop a wide range of general skills and capabilities, including information and communication technology skills, an appreciation of different perspectives, an understanding of ethical research principles, a capacity for teamwork and an ability to think critically and creatively. These skills can be applied in everyday life and at work.

The key inquiry questions for Year 8 are:
• How do environmental and human processes affect the characteristics of places and environments?
• How do the interconnections between places, people and environments affect the lives of people?
• What are the consequences of changes to places and environments and how can these changes be managed?

Topics may include:
• Landforms and landscapes
• Changing Nations

WHAT IS HISTORY?
History is essential.
• History is about the present. It helps students understand their world.
• History helps us to understand our origins.
• History helps students develop valuable life skills.
• History helps us to be aware of how the past is used in society today.
• Helps students to make decisions about where our society should make changes and how it can address issues

The Year 8 curriculum provides a study of history from the end of the ancient period to the beginning of the modern period. Taken together they constitute the unique contribution history makes to the curriculum.

Topics studied:
• Unit 1: Medieval Europe
• Unit 2: Shogunate Japan
• Unit 3: The Spanish Conquest of the Americas

ASSESSMENT:
Assessment instruments include a range of tasks to develop key historical and geographical skills. Such tasks include research assignments, response to stimulus tests, multi-modal presentations and report writing.