



# St Benet Biscop Sixth Form

## Personal Development

### *Geography*

#### **1. Online news articles and journals**

**Geographical** <https://geographical.co.uk/magazine/subscribe>

*Established in 1935, Mr. Woodhams top read. Geographical is the official magazine of the Royal Geographical Society and one of the leading magazines in its field with stunning photography, great writing and first-class design. Keep up to date with the world, its people and places through the fascinating articles.*

**THE CONVERSATION.COM** <http://theconversation.com/uk>

*It provides up-to-date articles from academics and specialists in the field written in a way that is accessible to all, summarising key points in short but insightful articles.*

**The Financial Times**

*[Following this link](#), and registering with your school email, will give you a full subscription to the Financial Times. An invaluable source of economic and geopolitical articles.*

**BBC News** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

*An excellent source of UpToDate articles – explore the key headings such as Science, Business, as well as the UK, World and other stories.*

**The Guardian** <https://www.theguardian.com/uk>

*Again, many useful articles and logically ordered – keep an eye on the Environment, Science, Society, Global Development stories in particular.*

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God intends us to be.*



## 2. Podcasts

*Give your eyes a break at a time when your screen time has increased and pop your headphones in instead to broaden your geographical understanding. These podcasts come highly recommended by the department; a departmental favourite is the 'Ask the Geographer' series.*

**Costing the Earth** – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn/episodes/player>

*There are some great podcasts here to pick from on a wide variety of geographical issues including climate change, carbon, urban greening, deforestation, alternative power, plastics etc. **Make notes on any ones you are interested in.***

**Royal Geographical Society – “Ask the Geographer podcasts”**

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-podcasts/>

*A fantastic set of podcasts with the latest geographical research aimed at a level – pick out some that interest you and give them a go!*

**The Documentary podcast -**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nq0lx/episodes/downloads>

*From the BBC, these podcasts investigate global development issues and affairs.*

**The Inquiry** – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p029399x/episodes/downloads>

*BBC podcasts exploring the trends, forces and ideas shaping the world beyond the headlines.*

**Podcasts from Oxford University School of Geography and the Environment –**

<https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/school-geography-and-environment-podcasts>

*These online audio resources consist of lectures, seminars and interviews from the School of Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford.*

**Talks from the Royal Geographical Society**

[https://www.rgs.org/all/?categories=FreeToView&utm\\_source=Twitter&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=SocialSignIn](https://www.rgs.org/all/?categories=FreeToView&utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialSignIn)

*From microplastics to microfinance, the RGS have released over 50 free geographical talks for you to watch and listen to. **Make notes on any that interest you.***

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### 3. Online Courses

Learning is the best way to stay engaged with the world. Whether you're looking for a new subject, are seeking out a new skill, or are hoping to just be the best Geographer in the pub quiz, there are hundreds of online courses available to you.

#### The Royal Geographical Online Lectures

[https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/?categories=OnlineLecture&utm\\_source=School+Members&utm\\_campaign=e21185bae0-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_03\\_25\\_09\\_19&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_bd6329754a-e21185bae0-](https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/?categories=OnlineLecture&utm_source=School+Members&utm_campaign=e21185bae0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_25_09_19&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bd6329754a-e21185bae0-)

*This is a comprehensive catalogue of online lectures facilitated by the Royal Geographical Society. Delivered by academics from leading universities in the UK, you will be spoilt for choice. Titles include: Feeding 9 billion, Digital Technology in Africa, Mobile Middle Classes and Air Quality for all?*

#### The Open University – <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>

*The Open University is the leading university for flexible, distance teaching. As part of their Open Learn programme, more than 1,000 free courses are available online for you to boost your brain. Courses accommodate a range of expertise and time required for study. Most also come with a free statement of participation on completion. Here are some of our suggestions for the geographically minded: **Ecology and Ecosystems, Biofuels, Earthquakes, The Frozen Planet, Introduction to Geology, and Water and Human Health.***

#### Future Learn — <https://www.futurelearn.com/>

*Future Learn is a convenient online hub for free online courses. They collate loads of courses from top UK and European universities. You can filter your course search by subject, the amount of time you'd like to spend studying a week, and the duration of your course. Most courses have a set start date, but don't worry, you can join and work your way through it after it starts. Future Learn is powered by cutting edge research in education, favouring micro-learning principles and interactivity in education. Our top picks: **Ecology and Wildlife Conservation – University of Leeds, Come Rain or Shine: Understanding the Weather – University of Reading, Exploring Our Ocean – University of Southampton.***

#### Open Yale Courses — <https://oyc.yale.edu/>

*Yale provide free and open access to a selection of introductory courses taught by the university's highly esteemed scholars. Each course comes with high-quality, downloadable lecture videos, as well as suggested readings and problem sets. Recommended: **The Atmosphere, the Ocean and Environmental Change – Professor Ronald Smith, Philosophy and the Science of Human Nature – Professor Tamar Gendler, Global Problems of Population Growth – Professor Robert Wyman.***

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**UN CC: e-Learn – <https://unccelearn.org/>**

*UN CC: eLearn is the official United Nations learning partnership for all things related to climate change. They offer self-paced and downloadable courses, meaning you can dip in and out of them as and when you please. There's an abundance of information on climate change – you can learn about climate policy, green economies, sustainable diets and personal finance, and lots more with these interactive courses. Take a look at some of the examples: **Introduction to Green Economy, Climate Change and Cities.***

#### **4. MOOCS – Massive Online Open Courses**

MOOCS are online courses with a limitless capacity of participators. While they have no prerequisites (hooray), they are not necessarily a doddle. Most are run by leading universities or scientific institutions to challenge you to think differently and more broadly about the subject matter.

Most courses are structured into five or six weeks' worth of study, with around three hours of activity each week. However, you can study at your own pace and even drop in just occasionally to learn something new. They also show self-discipline and academic engagement- think about how that would look on your CV!

**Ivy League Online Courses**

<https://www.classcentral.com/collection/ivy-league-moocs>

*An incredible opportunity to study at an Ivy League University! Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn, Princeton, and Yale have made thousands of courses available for free. Search their catalogue for a course which links to one of your chosen A Levels or quite simply something which has always interested you! These courses are free, and you will receive a certificate of completion (at a small cost) upon completion.*

**Geography of World Cultures – Stanford University**

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/itunes-u/geography-of-world-cultures/id384233929?mt=10>

*The purpose of this map-intensive course is to explore the locational dynamics of the world's languages, religions, and ethnic groupings. We will examine every world region, seeking to understand how places vary from each other with regard to the cultural attributes of their inhabitants. The course will explore the historical forces that have generated cultural diversity and will carefully examine the processes of contemporary transformation. This course is presented in enhanced podcast format: the presentation images are synched with the audio track and will display in the album artwork section of your iTunes application.*

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### **Exploring Human's Space- EdX (EPFL)**

<https://www.edx.org/course/exploring-humans-space-an-introduction-to-geograph>

*As the title suggests, this course is a little more conceptual. The aim is to learn about the abstract terms through social science and cartography. Sounds complicated? 'The aim of this course is to help you feel comfortable with your daily notion of space,' says Jacques Levy Professor of Geography and Urbanism at EPFL. 'Firstly, space is about distances, the simplest way to understand it is to connect your daily life, your perceptions and your practices to the concepts of contact and remoteness. You will easily realise that space is omnipotent in your life'. The course is divided into nine distinct sessions, each of which are filmed in a geographically relevant space. This will help some of the abstract notions a little more concrete. First, the course will explore the different types of contemporary space and deconstruct the idea of the city and urbanism. Second, it will assess the function of cartography in the making of these spaces. After 10 weeks, you will be able to read and draw your own maps.*

### **ChinaX - EdX (Harvard University)**

<https://www.edx.org/course/chinas-political-and-intellectual-foundations-fr-2>

*This course, the first in a comprehensive series on China, introduces you to the history, geography, and culture of the country. Time, space, and identity — enduring issues in Chinese history — are explored. You'll learn about China's early dynasties to understand how physical geography impacted its inhabitants and how the many ethnicities within the country affected Chinese identity. You'll learn about China's origins as told in ancient texts and through modern archaeology. You'll explore the first dynasties during the Chinese bronze age, the many facets of Confucianism and his Analects, and the competing schools of thought that followed. New political and moral ideas appear in Chinese culture in this period — ideas that make up the country's intellectual foundations and still resonate today. Join us to learn about China's origins and how early concepts in Chinese culture still matter in the 21st century.*

## **4.Books**

### **Prisoners of Geography (Tim Marshall)**

*Mr. Woodhams' favourite book! An insightful book which helps understand how physical geography impacts on political reality and really helps to understand how decisions of world leaders have been shaped by geography. **Make notes on each chapter.***

### **Factfulness: Ten reasons we're wrong about the world – and why things are better than you think (Hans Rosling)**

*Hans Rosling has written what is a must-read book from a geography perspective – this takes a more realistic view of the world, presenting issues in fact-based context. It is a rational look at actually how far the world has measurably improved and what's left to be done.*

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**Divided** (Tim Marshall)

*Author Tim Marshall attempts to explain why we are living in an age of walls by delving into our past and present to reveal the fault lines that will shape our world for years to come. Another Sunday Times Best Seller from the author.*

**Unruly Places** (Alistair Bonnet)

*At a time when Google Maps can take you on a virtual tour of most places on the planet, it's hard to imagine there's any uncharted ground left on the planet. Unruly Places goes to some of the most unexpected, offbeat places in the world to re-inspire our geographical imaginations.*

**Brick Lane** (Monica Ali)

*A fictional novel which explores the rich cultural heritage of East London's Brick Lane. A less academic approach to key urban issues and cultural tensions in inner-city London.*

**China's Asian Dream** (Tom Miller)

*Combining a concise overview of the situation with on-the-ground reportage from over seven countries, China's Asian Dream offers a fresh perspective on one of the most important questions of our time: what does China's rise mean for the future of Asia and of the world? **Make notes on the key points raised***

**On the Map** (Simon Garfield)

*Maps fascinate us. They chart our understanding of the world and they log our progress, but above all they tell our stories. From the early sketches of philosophers and explorers through to Google Maps and beyond, Simon Garfield examines how maps both relate and realign our history.*

**The Power of Place** (Harm De Blij)

*The world is not as mobile or as interconnected as we like to think. As Harm de Blij argues in The Power of Place, in crucial ways--from the uneven distribution of natural resources to the unequal availability of opportunity--geography continues to hold billions of people in its grip. Incorporating a series of persuasive maps, De Blij describes the tremendously varied environments across the planet and shows how migrations between them are comparatively rare. De Blij also looks at the ways we are redefining place so as to make its power even more potent than it has been, with troubling implications.*

**The Revenge of Geography** (Robert D Kaplan)

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** • In this provocative, startling book, Robert D. Kaplan, the bestselling author of Monsoon and Balkan Ghosts, offers a revelatory new prism through which to view global upheavals and to understand what lies ahead for continents and countries around the world.

**Landmarks** (Robert Macfarlane)

*Words are grained into our landscapes, and landscapes are grained into our words. Landmarks is about the power of language to shape our sense of place. It is a field guide to the literature of nature and a glossary containing thousands of remarkable words used in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales to describe land, nature, and weather.*

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### **The Happy City (Charles Montgomery)**

*Charles Montgomery's Happy City is revolutionizing the way we think about urban life.*

*After decades of unchecked sprawl, more people than ever are moving back to the city. Dense urban living has been prescribed as a panacea for the environmental and resource crises of our time. But is it better or worse for our happiness? Are subways, sidewalks, and condo towers an improvement on the car dependence of the suburbs?*

### **Map head: Charting the Weird World of Geography Wonks (Ken Jennings)**

*Ken Jennings takes readers on a world tour of geogeeks from the London Map Fair to the bowels of the Library of Congress, from the prepubescent geniuses at the National Geographic Bee to the computer programmers at Google Earth. Each chapter delves into a different aspect of map culture: high pointing, geocaching, road atlas rallying, even the "unreal estate" charted on the maps of fiction and fantasy. Jennings also considers the ways in which cartography has shaped our history, suggesting that the impulse to make and read maps is as relevant today as it has ever been.*

### **Atlas of Improbable Places (Travis Elborough)**

*With beautiful maps and stunning photography illustrating each destination, Atlas of Improbable Places is a fascinating voyage to the world's most incredible destinations. As the Island of Dolls and the hauntingly titled Door to Hell — an inextinguishable fire pit - attest, mystery is never far away. The truths and myths behind their creation are as varied as the destinations themselves. Standing as symbols of worship, testaments to kingships or even the strange and wonderful traditions of old and new, these curious places are not just extraordinary sights but reflections on man's own relationship with the world around us.*

### **The Almighty Dollar (Dahrsini David)**

*Have you ever wondered why we can afford to buy far more clothes than our grandparents ever could . . . but may be less likely to own a home in which to keep them all? Why your petrol bill can double in a matter of months, but it never falls as fast? Behind all of this lies economics. It's not always easy to grasp the complex forces that are shaping our lives. But by following a dollar on its journey around the globe, we can start to piece it all together.*

## **4. Geographical Reading Lists**

Alongside the extensive list above, the Geographical Association (The GA) has very recently produced two reading lists; one human and one physical, separated by topics to give you a feel for the people, places and issues you may have already covered.

#### **Human Geography Reading List:**

[https://www.geography.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/Get%20involved/Reading\\_List\\_1\\_Human\\_Geography.pdf](https://www.geography.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/Get%20involved/Reading_List_1_Human_Geography.pdf)

#### **Physical Geography Reading List:**

[https://www.geography.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/Get%20involved/Reading\\_List\\_2\\_Physical\\_Geography, Climate Change and Maps.pdf](https://www.geography.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/Get%20involved/Reading_List_2_Physical_Geography,_Climate_Change_and_Maps.pdf)



## **5. Geographical Films & Documentaries**

If you are in need of a respite from your latest online MOOC or Geographical podcast, why not spend some down time with one of the following documentaries or films? Instead of watching re-runs of Friends or keeping up with Joe Exotic on Tiger King, make sure you are even making use of your Netflix and 'chill' time by watching something geographical. Your brain absolutely needs to rest but watching any of the following means your brain is still learning and engaging with the subject.

### **Netflix:**

#### **Into the Inferno**

*With stunning views of eruptions and lava flows it captures the raw power of volcanoes.*

#### **The Boy who harnessed the wind**

*About water shortage in Malawi and a boy who makes a windmill to pump water.*

#### **Cowspiracy**

*Investigate the food and meat industry Available on Netflix*

#### **Rotten**

*Docuseries travels deep into the heart of the food supply chain to reveal unsavoury truths*

#### **Africa**

*Documentary series about Africa. Narrated by David Attenborough*

#### **Our Planet**

*Stunning Sir David Attenborough series investigating the different biomes and their varied flora and fauna.*

#### **Planet Earth and Planet Earth 2**

*The Irreplaceable Sir David Attenborough explores some of the world's different biomes*

#### **Blue Planet**

*More geographical joy from Sir David who takes us deep underwater to explore the world's oceans and seas.*

#### **Wild Caribbean**

*Explore the turbulent natural history and rich diversity of the Caribbean islands.*

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### **The Dark Tourist**

*David Farrier's eight-part series looks at unconventional destinations across the world. From the radioactive villages of Japan following the 2013 tsunami to the voodoo villages of South Africa. Farrier explores tourist's dark desires for the 'never seen before'.*

### **Dirty Money**

*Dirty Money is a Netflix original television series which tells stories of corporate corruption, securities fraud and creative accounting. ... Each episode focuses on one example of corporate corruption and includes interviews with key players in each story.*

*Make notes on each episode*

### **Explained**

*From YouTube sensations, VOX Creators, each episode is 16-18 minutes long with each focusing on a different topic. There are plenty of geographical based ones to choose from including the World's Water Crisis.*

### **Dangerous Places to Live**

*Get up close and personal with avalanches, fiery volcanoes and other natural disasters and learn why some people choose to live in their destructive paths*

## **5.Films**

### **Before the Flood (2016)**

*Before the Flood, presented by National Geographic, features Leonardo DiCaprio on a journey as a United Nations Messenger of Peace, travelling to five continents and the Arctic to witness climate change first-hand. He goes on expeditions with scientists uncovering the reality of climate change and meets with political leaders fighting against inaction.*

### **An Inconvenient Truth and An Inconvenient Sequel (2006, 2016)**

*These films follow Al Gore on the lecture circuit as the former presidential candidate campaigns to raise public awareness of the dangers of global warming and calls for immediate action to curb its destructive effects on the environment.*

### **The Impossible (2012):**

*The story of a tourist family caught in the destructive and chaotic aftermath of one of the world's most devastating natural disasters. Based on real life events of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami which killed 300,000 people.*

### **Slumdog Millionaire (15)**

*A Mumbai teenager reflects on his life after being accused of cheating on the Indian version of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire'. Based on life in the slums of Mumbai and the realities of urban life in one of the world's largest megacities. A favourite of Mr Woodhams, emotional!*

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**Hotel Rwanda (12)**

*The true story of hotel manager who houses and protects Tutsi refugees – this is a hard-hitting film based on the Rwandan Conflict of the 1990s.*

**The Last King of Scotland (15)**

*Based on the events of the brutal Ugandan dictator Idi Amin's regime as seen by his personal physician during the 1970s.*

**Lion (2016)**

*An Indian man who was separated from his mother at the age of 5 and adopted by an Australian family return home determined to find his birth family. Highlights the realities of slum life. Another emotional rollercoaster- bring the tissues.*