RUNSHAW COLLEGE

A Level 2027/2028

Geology

96% Pass Rate

80% A*-C Grades

Field work opportunities

Tackle modern challenges

Prestigious Destinations



A Level **Geology**

Geology at Runshaw College is a fascinating subject that explores the Earth's past, present and future. You'll study a wide range of topics from fossils and rock formations to contemporary issues like fracking and sinkholes. The course is ideal for students interested in science and/or physical geography, offering a balance of theory, applied knowledge, and hands-on experience. You'll gain practical skills through laboratory work and field trips across the UK, while learning how geology shapes the world around us from natural hazards to vital resources.

Course structure:
Over two years, you'll study 19 core topics designed to build both your geological knowledge and practical skills. In the first year, you'll explore the foundations of geology including minerals, rock formation, plate tectonics and fossils alongside the development of key practical techniques used by geologists in the field and laboratory.

In the second year, you'll apply this knowledge to a wider range of topics, such as interpreting Earth's history through fossils and rock records, understanding geohazards like earthquakes and volcanoes, and investigating the economic importance of geological resources looking at future implications, climate change and human evolution.

Throughout the course, you'll complete a series of practical tasks as part of the non-examined practical endorsement, while final assessments take place at the end of Year 2 across three exam papers covering all modules.

Geology opens the door to a wide range of exciting university courses and careers in both Earth sciences and the wider STEM field. Many students go on to study subjects such as environmental geology, geophysics, palaeontology, planetary science or conservation. It is also widely accepted as a science qualification for degrees in engineering, materials science, mining, and even forensic science. Whether you are interested in understanding natural hazards, exploring for resources, or helping to shape sustainable solutions for the future, Geology provides a strong and versatile foundation.

"Rock Solid Skills in the Heart of the Lakes"

As part of the course, students take part in a four fieldwork days including a three-day, two night residential trip to the Field Studies Council centre at Blencathra in the Lake District. This trip brings classroom concepts to life through hands-on geological fieldwork, forming an essential part of the practical endorsement, recognised separately to A level grades by all UK universities.

Students investigate a range of iconic geological sites including the Borrowdale Volcanics, the Shap Granite quarry, and folded turbidites linked to ancient mountain-building events. The trip develops core skills such as rock identification, field sketching, sedimentary logging, and structural measurements, with opportunities to explore igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic environments in stunning natural landscapes.
If you're looking for an exciting and popular subject that's both relevant and full of future opportunities, Geology at Runshaw College is the perfect choice.

With strong connections to Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geography and Mathematics, it offers a truly connected experience that opens doors to a wide range of career paths and university courses. Join us and discover how Earth's story shapes your future!

Entry Requirements:
A minimum of 5 x Grade 5s, including Grade 5 in Maths as well as Grade 6 in Science OR Geology.

What's great about this course?

1. Outstanding job prospects
2. Experience geology in the field
3. Guest speakers

Runshaw_Geology

Geology A Level AS 2027-28 September 15 2026

For more information about our courses, visit **runshaw.ac.uk**
call **01772 643000** or email **info@runshaw.ac.uk**