

## Lower6 geographers learn about *placemaking*



Having successfully completed one of their six A Level Geography modules (*Hot Deserts*) the Lower 6 geographers have now moved on to their first human geography unit. This contemporary topic explores the meaning of “*place*” and how the same location can hold different meanings for different groups.

This week, pupils have been introduced to “*placemaking*” – a key human geography concept that involves thoughtful planning and design to transform spaces into vibrant, multi-purpose areas that are accessible to local communities. Successful placemaking enhances a location’s character, promotes social interaction, and boosts economic activity, improving the experience for both local residents (*insiders*) and visitors (*outsiders*).

A great example of international placemaking is Bo-Kaap, Cape Town, South Africa, where a historically segregated neighbourhood has been revitalised with colourful architecture and community-led projects, creating a thriving multicultural area and popular tourist destination. Perhaps you have been lucky enough to visit?

Closer to home, pupils researched how placemaking is shaping Leeds by celebrating its rich cultural heritage and transforming old mill and canal spaces, many of which were derelict in living memory. Notable projects include the South Bank development, Leeds Dock, Aire Park, Channel 4 relocating its national headquarters here, and Leeds City of Culture 2023, all contributing to a more dynamic, vibrant and inclusive city.

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