

# CPD REVIEW

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## **‘How To: Design a Great KS3 Curriculum’ by Kate Stockings on Seneca**

In September, I will start my new role as Head of Geography at Redland Green School. I have thus used the lockdown to complete numerous CPD courses in preparation. Kate Stockings’ presentation on Seneca’s YouTube channel about How To: Design a Great KS3 Curriculum has definitely been a highlight. Here are the four main ideas I have taken away from the talk:

1. It is important that we start to think of our curriculum as a coherent 7 year journey from Year 7 to 13 rather than a series of Schemes of Work. This will enable us to create better geographers by building upwards. However, this does not mean creating a 5 years GCSE or 7 year A-Level syllabus!
2. Geography curriculums need to be built around and adapted to the strengths of the curriculum team members.
3. Reading ‘Teaching and Learning’ books is a great form of CPD, especially for HoDs, but reading around our subject is vital if we are to create a coherent curriculum built around meta-concepts.
4. Meta-concepts are threshold concepts that sit above substantive material which make up Schemes of Work. They help to highlight core knowledge and build schematas or synoptic links. For more on this, Kate suggests reading ‘Geography Through Enquiry’ (Roberts 2013), the ‘ALCAB Report’ (2014), and the ‘DfE Subject Content Report’ (2014). I personally also recommend following @TheGeogTeacher on Twitter and his blog post on curriculum planning.

