

Subject: Psychology

Head of Department: Miss Williams

Curriculum Intent:

The Psychology curriculum aims to inspire students to develop a deep understanding of human behaviour and social constructs. The curriculum is academically rigorous, incorporating scientific, mathematic and subject specific content in order to develop students as critical thinkers and evaluative learners. Learning is framed around the students understanding of the world around them and applying new knowledge to real world examples and experiences. All students will develop key skills such as analysis, discussion and evaluation and apply their knowledge to a variety of scenarios both inside and beyond the classroom to become truly independent learners, regardless of attainment/background.

The Psychology curriculum is meticulously planned to ensure progression is logically sequenced, allowing students to make synoptic links between topics they are studying to be able to develop a holistic view of Psychology over time. The Psychology department uses EVC to enhance academic and life skills by providing an excellent range of opportunities for all students to deepen their understanding of human behaviour beyond the classroom. All students are provided the opportunity to develop their cultural capital by interacting with contemporary psychologists, sampling careers and future studies within Psychology and to develop communication, planning and leadership skills through a peer mentoring system. We pride ourselves on preparing students to apply their knowledge and skills in all aspects of life, guiding them in their future career pathways.

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Course Content

Amongst other topics students study the following:

- Social influence
- Attachment
- Memory
- Psychopathology
- Research methods
- Biopsychology
- Approaches in psychology
- Issues and debates
- Forensic psychology
- Eating behaviour
- Relationships

Year 12 Topics

- Autumn Term – Social Influence, Psychopathology, Research Methods
- Spring Term – Attachment, Memory, Research methods
- Summer Term 1 – Biopsychology,
- Summer Term 2 – Approaches in psychology

Year 13 Topics

- Autumn Term – Issues and debates, Relationships
- Spring Term – Eating behaviour, Forensic Psychology

Assessment

Assessment is through three terminal examinations. Each written exam is 2 hours and comprises of 96 marks in total, weighted as 33.3% of overall A-level. Students will be guided towards their target grade by teacher marking and feedback. They will sit three mid-term assessments in year 12 and three in year 13.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182>

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SMSC

Modern British values are at the forefront of the Psychology curriculum. In year 12, students are presented with multiple opportunities to explore this, including the democratic process which includes the right and responsibilities of people. These rights and responsibilities are fundamental to psychologists whose research must be passed by an ethics committee before being conducted. Democracy is also related to the right to express opinion and allow for social change. The mechanisms underpinning social change are a key part of the social influence topic in Psychology. Psychology is concerned with the motivations of human behavior and develops theories and subsequent research to help us to understand how, and why, individuals make decisions. Through the study of approaches in Psychology students are encouraged to see that, whilst we may all be similar in many respects, there are always anomalies in human behavior that cannot be predicted. In year 13, the humanistic approach in Psychology places value on individual responsibility, believing that it is our own free will that governs our actions.