



Curriculum Intent of PSYCHOLOGY

September 2021

KS5 Psychology

Intent/skills/knowledge

Psychology is the science of mind and behaviour. This subject explores how behaviour can be explained, the most appropriate methods for investigating behaviour and implications of findings for the real world. The aim is to go beyond the popular approach to psychology, taking a more academic route towards an understanding of the various theoretical perspectives and research methods available to us.

The topics covered allow the students to develop a contextual understanding of why psychology is so important to study and why it is so relevant in their world. For example, we can look back in history to answer questions such as 'why do people obey?' by studying the behaviour of the thousands who unquestionably obeyed the Nazis in the second world war.

More recently we see the discipline come to the fore during the Covid 19 pandemic and its role in studying and treating the effects of lockdown on global mental health. The psychology department is passionate about using real life examples from their professional practice and those from history to allow students the opportunity to apply their knowledge of the underpinning theories and research they study in the classroom.

Our intent is to inspire students to use the knowledge and skills gained during their psychology A Level and use this in whatever pathway they choose to take next, whether that be skills of critical analysis and evaluation, mathematical skills learned during the statistical component of the course or in their personal and professional lives to enable them to become more compassionate, empathetic and tolerant citizens.

The aims of the course are to:

- Offer an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology.
- To learn the fundamentals of the discipline and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.
- To offer a curriculum that reflects advances and changes in the subject and provide a coherent and holistic programme of study.
- To challenge and inspire students to critically analyse evidence, from both academic literature or that which is published by the media for consumption by the general public.
- To develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- To develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods • To develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills
- To develop an interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- To understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society