



Curriculum Intent of PSYCHOLOGY

September 2026

KS5 Psychology

Intent/skills/knowledge

Our intent is to ensure that our students will become more attuned with the ability of viewing the world from the perspective of a psychologist. They will become confident in data analysis, report writing and the use of statistical tests and their role in psychological research.

Students will also explore the variety of disciplines within psychology, understanding their key concepts, their importance, alongside the ability to critically analyse theories/ research and explanations. Students will explore the areas of social, cognitive, biological and learning theories and will observe how each approach has contributed to our understanding of human behaviour and the complexity of trying to determine causes and effect behind individual and group behaviours.

Throughout their journey students will be able to develop their knowledge further by undertaking the compulsory topic of issue and debates in year 2. This will only heighten their ability to use synopticity throughout their papers and not just have a deeper understanding of some of the key questions (nature versus nurture) that keep psychologists up at night but be able to add higher level concepts to their longer essay questions and discussions.

In their final year, students will also explore more specific fields in psychology such as eating behaviour, relationships and aggression. Here students will contend with topics such as eating disorders, aggression in society and relationship formation through to dissolution. Such topics in year 2 facilitate greater discussion, class involvement and more connections to real world affairs and often gives students more insight into areas of Psychology they may want to study at a higher level.

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 program 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