



Psychology Curriculum Overview

Psychology explores human behaviour, helping us understand how we think, feel, and act in our daily lives. It encourages students to apply scientific methods to investigate a wide range of human experiences. Students explore real world issues that have real impacts and consider the vital role Psychology plays in multiple facets of our society. From mental health care to the criminal justice system, and government policy to education, marketing and more. As such, psychology is deeply relevant to everyday life and underpins many roles across society.

We aim for our students to develop a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge, and understanding involved in scientific methods. Our dynamic psychology department aims to create critical thinkers who are equipped with a strong understanding of the influences on human behaviour, and a range of highly transferable skills when leaving the course. The psychology A-level AQA builds on skills developed during GCSE Maths, Science, English and Humanities subjects. Teachers have had experience of a range of exam boards and feel that AQA offers the most holistic and coherent program of study. Students will engage in discussions and develop high level application, evaluation and analytical skills. Students should also demonstrate confidence and competence in a range of practical, mathematical, and problem-solving skills.

Students have an opportunity to further their interests through participating in the psychology society, extended project work and opportunities to attend external conferences. Annually we invite an expert in the field of medical neuroscience to lecture (Dr Sutton's Psychology Brain Day). Our goal is to foster a genuine interest and enthusiasm for psychology, encouraging further exploration and pursuit. We aspire for students to develop a love for their learning in Psychology, building fascination and a curiosity about human behaviour. Psychology's popularity at degree level and beyond reflects its broad applicability and enduring appeal.

We hope that by learning psychology students will acquire not only a mastery of the subject, but also a lifelong love for learning and researching human behaviour. We aspire to create a welcoming, stimulating and secure environment for all pupils. Teaching is always high quality, creative and challenging for students where they are encouraged through a range of strategies to pursue further research into areas that they find particularly interesting. Members of the Department also seek to share related links to careers throughout the course, for Psychology students who are interested in working in a related field.

KS5 Psychology Curriculum

	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn Term 1	Approaches • Learning approaches • Cognitive approach • Biological approach Social Influence • Conformity • Obedience • Resistance to social influence • Minority influence	Clinical Psychology and Mental Health • Definitions in the field of mental health • Characteristics, explanations and treatments for OCD, depression and phobias Research Methods • Report writing • Content analysis • Validity and reliability • Economic implications
Autumn Term 2	Approaches • Psychodynamic approach • Humanism Research Methods • Ethical issues in Psychology • Sampling methods • Experiments • Case studies • Types of data • Descriptive statistics • Presentation and display of data	Schizophrenia • Positive and negative symptoms • Explanations: biological and psychological • Therapies: drug, cognitive, family • Interactionism Forensic Psychology • Offender profiling • Explanations: biological & Psychological
Spring Term 1	Memory • Multistore model of memory • Working memory model • Explanations for forgetting Biopsychology • Nervous system • Endocrine system • Fight and flight response	Forensic Psychology • Dealing with offending behaviour Relationships • Attraction • Romantic relationships Research Methods • Statistical testing using inferential statistics

	- Localisation and lateralisation of function Research Methods - Correlations	
Spring Term 2	Memory - Eyewitness testimony Biopsychology - Plasticity and functional recovery - Studying the brain Research methods - Self report techniques Attachment - Animal studies - Explanations of attachment	Relationships - Online relationships - Parasocial relationships Issues and debates - Gender bias - Culture bias - Freewill and determinism - Nature and nurture - Holism and Reductionism - Idiographic and nomothetic - Social sensitivity
Summer Term 1	Attachment - Types of attachment - Maternal deprivation - Influence of early attachment Research Methods - Observations - Distribution of data Consolidation	Revision and exams
Summer Term 2	Exam feedback and review Teacher directed and supported project work	