

### Curriculum Intent

The psychology curriculum aims to ensure that students are equipped with the necessary scientific knowledge and skills and vocabulary to develop a better understanding of themselves and the wider world. Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and how it dictates and influences our behaviour, from communication and memory to thought and emotion. It's about understanding what makes people tick and how this understanding can help us to address many of the problems and issues in society today. People seek the help and support of psychologists for all sorts of problems, and psychologists employ their knowledge and expertise to help in many areas of society. The A level Psychology curriculum will give students a strong foundation to pursue a career in this field. By the end of the course students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues within psychology. They will be able to apply psychological knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts and be able to analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies and research methods. Knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills is a vital part of the psychology curriculum and students will be given opportunity to design and carry out their own research as well as practice analysis and interpreting data.

### What do students *do* with this knowledge or these skills?

The intention is for students to develop a love of learning in understanding how the mind can influence human behaviour as well as developing students into well rounded active citizens, who have a voice, and who are prepared to stand up for inequality etc. i.e., Black Lives Matter – this subject will equip students with the necessary tools and give them a voice to do something. This is done through a broad range of topics including mental health, social influence, relationships and memory all of which help students to be respectful, tolerant and resilient. Furthermore, studying psychology can help students to understand themselves and build self-esteem and confidence – all important skills for learning and for life. Perhaps encouraging some to change the world and build a better future.

### How does the KS5 curriculum build on that from KS4?

As very few students will have studied this subject in KS4 the KS5 curriculum follows a two year linear course which is taught synoptically helping students to master effective evaluative techniques and explain the economic implications from Psychology research.

## What new knowledge or skills are students taught?

Term	Year 12	Year 13
<b>Autumn</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is Psychology</li> <li><b>Brief introduction to all the approaches in Psychology</b> – Behaviourist, Social Learning theory, Cognitive, Biological, Psychodynamic</li> <li>Social Influence</li> <li>Memory and eye witness testimony and how this applies to education and police interviewing.</li> <li>Research methods in Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revision of approaches – Humanistic and Psychodynamic</li> <li>Comparing the approaches in terms of how reductionism, determinism and the nature v nurture debate.</li> <li>Revision of Biopsychology including additional topics, i.e. Biological rhythms and localisation of function. Plasticity and functional recovery of the brain after trauma, Split brain research and ways of studying the brain.</li> <li>Research methods – including statistical analysis using descriptive and inferential statistics.</li> <li>Issues and Debates in Psychology</li> </ul>
<b>Spring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attachment to a primary caregiver and the problems we could face due to a lack of attachment figure</li> <li>Approaches in Psychology</li> <li>Research methods in Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Topics in Psychology, Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology</li> </ul>
<b>Summer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Psychopathology</li> <li>Biopsychology – The nervous system, fight or flight, endocrine system Neurons and neuron transmission.</li> <li>Research methods in Psychology and carrying out primary research</li> <li>Approaches in Psychology – Humanistic and Psychodynamic – brief introduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revision</li> </ul>
<b>Rationale for this sequencing</b>	<p>We follow a 2 year linear course which is taught synoptically helping students to master effective evaluative techniques and explain the economic implications from Psychology research.</p> <p>Students are introduced first to what Psychology is and the approaches which will be used throughout the 2 year course, which we will keep referring back to. They then apply this to topics such as memory (cognitive approach) and revisit the approaches when we cover Psychopathology Phobias – Behaviourist approach, Depression – Cognitive approach and OCD – biological approach.</p> <p>Research methods is also continually revisited and applied to topics we are studying.</p>	<p>In year 13 we build on what we have covered and develop students understanding of biology in terms of the brain and biological rhythms.</p> <p>Students will also develop their knowledge of the humanistic and Psychodynamic approaches along with comparing the approaches and linking to the issues and debates in Psychology i.e. cultural differences, gender differences, ethics, Free will v determinism, Nature v Nurture, holism v reductionism idiographic and nomothetic and the ethical implications of conducting research in Psychology</p> <p>Throughout the 2 year course students will develop a range of key skills which will prepare them for further education and future careers. Overall Psychology follows a scientific approach which encourages practical research into human behaviour, and ethical professional standards all of which aim to raise aspirations.</p>

## Additional support at home

<p><b>Additional reading</b> for enjoyment, enhancement and extension</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading list is given to all students and can be found on teams.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Online resources</b> to practice, consolidate and revise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links are given for Simply Psychology, Psyche boost and Seneca.</li> <li>• Past papers can be found on the AQA website which has the mark schemes</li> <li>• Students are encouraged to use online revision quizzes such as: Kahoot, Seneca and Blookit.</li> <li>• Students are encouraged to use online revision materials provided by 'Tutor2u' 'Psych boost' and 'Simply Psychology'.</li> <li>• On TEAMS there is a 'revision materials' folder to support independent revision it contains: teacher made revision PowerPoints, student made revision PowerPoints, quizzes (with answers for self-assessing), real sample exam answers, examples of exam questions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Workbooks &amp; revision guides</b> to practice, consolidate and revise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students will be provided with textbooks</li> <li>• Students are also encouraged to buy a revision guide, although some copies are available to borrow.</li> </ul>