

# Intent statement PSYCHOLOGY

## Curriculum intent statement: Psychology

We believe the ability to understand human behaviour is vital to developing student's awareness of people and the world around them, which enables them to become empathetic and understanding to people from all walks of life and backgrounds, something that is essential in modern society.

KS5 psychology also gives students the opportunity to learn how to analyse arguments and evidence, test hypotheses and make informed judgements – all skills valued by Higher Education institutions and employers. Students develop skills in how to conduct research and how to always critically analyse and evaluate the information they are presented with, rather than taking things at face value.

The AQA specification considers a vast array of elements of human behaviour, from understanding how humans interact on a whole societal level, right down to the specific neurons and hormones that affect our behaviour. Therefore, students gain a broad understanding of human behaviour from multiple perspectives. When it comes to selecting optional content, we choose to study relationships, forensic psychology and schizophrenia. We chose relationships as every student has experience to draw on for this and it is relatable to everyday life. Forensic psychology gives them a chance to think about the causes of crime, again something that will affect most people's lives either directly or indirectly at some point. Schizophrenia is a commonly misunderstood condition and so it gives students an opportunity to really understand how and why someone develops the condition and how to treat it. We believe those three optional topics give them a nice balance of content and historically students engage really well with these. We also have a great deal of resources and teacher specialisms which allow students to really get the best academic experience.

Psychology is also in line with the school's moral ethos, particularly the core values of respect and compassion as psychology does develop a deep understanding of people and why they behave as they do, due to a variety of factors. We also specifically study wider issues in society such as ethics, gender bias, culture bias- all issues faced in modern life.

Psychology is a subject which develops multiple skills for the future as it combines elements of maths, science and English and the subject gives students a broad skill set for the future.