

Psychology Curriculum Overview



Subject Curriculum Intent Statement

The Psychology curriculum intent focuses on fostering a deep understanding of human behaviour and mental processes through scientific inquiry, critical thinking, and ethical research methods. It aims to develop analytical, mathematical, and evaluation skills, enabling students to apply psychological concepts to real-life situations, understand societal issues, and cultivate a synoptic, evidence-based mindset.

'Respectful and capable researchers who can analyse multi-faceted theories and studies to further understand human behaviour, appreciating the fine interaction of neuroscience, culture, and environment to explain Psychology'

This will be achieved in Psychology through:

- A high-quality Psychology curriculum helping pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of human behaviour across many disciplines and approaches within the subject.
- Equipping students with a deep knowledge of research methods to both design, understand and evaluate Psychological research in an ethical manner.
- Building balanced arguments in relation to key topics and theories, using research findings to offer robust analysis and counter arguments of material being studied.
- Challenging lessons that provide opportunities for all students to engage with relevant research that allows them to identify and challenge gender, cultural and historical bias by critically thinking about different viewpoints.
- Developing reflective, confident communicators through literacy, oral fluency and mathematical skills required in Psychology.
- Connecting psychological theories to everyday life, social issues, and future career opportunities.
- Preparing students for a dynamic, rapidly changing world by developing curiosity and an ability to strengthen arguments by justifying their views when reaching conclusions and making decisions.

Psychology Curriculum Offer @ SNA

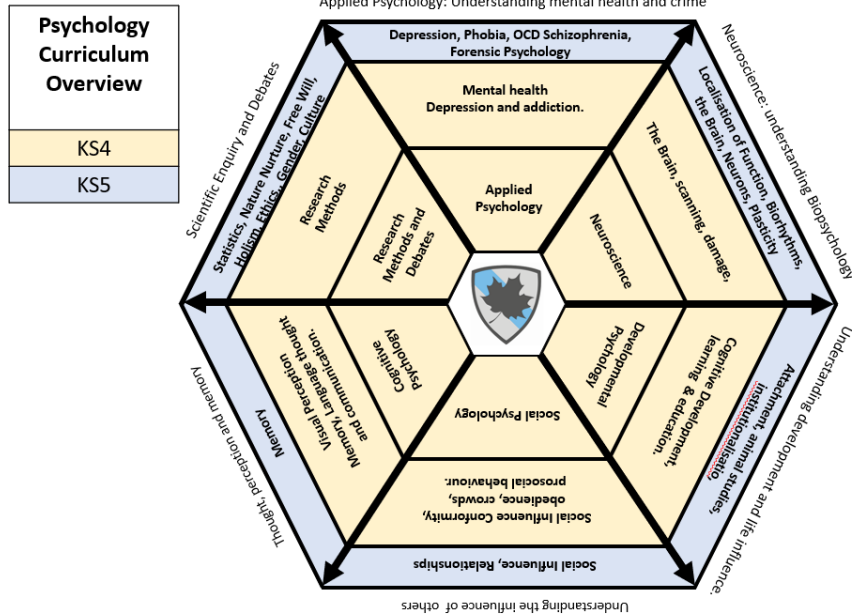
Key Stage 4 – Years 10-11

- GCSE Psychology – five hours per fortnight

Key Stage 5 - Years 12-13

- A Level Psychology – ten hours per fortnight

Psychology Curriculum Map



Assessment Approach

Within our curriculum, we look at a variety of methods to assess our students. Below is the assessment plan which gives an overview of our assessment approaches with each year group.

Assessment Approach	Description	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
Extended Writing	Extended writing, success criteria and teacher led feed forward feedback provided where appropriate to stimulate progress. This is 9 marks in GCSE, and up to 16 marks at A level				
Low Stakes Quizzing	Short answer / multiple choice recall questions on prior learning on variety of scales				
Mathematical/Graph Skills	Using tables and graphs to interpret/explain data. Basic computation %, fractions, mean, median and mode.				
Explicit Analytical Skills	Analysing quantitative and qualitative sources of data and making links across different data sets.				
Statistical Testing	Knowing when to use each statistical test – carrying out the sign test. Interpreting calculated and critical values.				
Summative end of unit and Full past assessments	Summative assessments are used to establish knowledge, understanding and evaluative thinking to track progress to exam assessment objectives.				
Mock exams using past papers	Past GCSE/A-level papers and exam style questions used to test how student can apply the knowledge into the exam context.				

Cross Curricular links

Within our Psychology curriculum, we offer a variety of opportunities for cross curricular links, that benefit students at all levels. Our cross curricular links are as follows;

- **Literacy** - Students write extended answers in every topic with emphasis on quality of written communication.
- **Numeracy** – Students use their numeracy skills to analyse and interpret graphical and statistical data. As the course progresses student will understand more complex methods of inferential statistical analysis to select the correct statistical test and conclude significance.
- **PSHE/British Values** – Throughout all key stages, students are exposed to a variety of sensitive issues that increase their knowledge and understanding of ethics, mental health, cultural diversity, and bias from the past.

Preparing for Life

At SNA, our Psychology curriculum supports and further develops the following skills within students to prepare them for life beyond school and the world of work. These include:

- **Critical thinking:** learners are provided with a range of research material, evidence and data which are assessed and critically evaluated in order for learners to develop their own critical thinking skills.
- **ICT:** learners are given the opportunity to use IT resources to produce a range of tasks at KS5. Computer simulations of the 3D brain, use of interactive text-books and learning resources and guided study using a wealth of research articles, online documentaries and lecture forums.
- **Data analysis:** throughout the Psychology curriculum, tables, diagrams, graphs and statistical data are presented for analysis and conclusions. Learners have the continual opportunity to work with, draw and interpret each of these in order to prepare them for future professional applications.
- **Diversity and inclusion:** Opportunities to understand individual differences and be inclusive in understanding and flexible in approach and conclusion will help relationships in the workplace and successful application of Psychology.
- **Problem solving** opportunities to develop problem solving skills are embedded in the Psychology curriculum throughout the course, for example, identifying research design flaws, extraneous variables and suggesting design improvements.
- **Teamwork:** learners are given the opportunity to work in group tasks in lessons which encourage co-operation as well as working together on analysis and student led mini-lectures and revision sessions.

Extra-Curricular

At KS4, we offer extra intervention sessions for students who want extra support or want to learn beyond the curriculum, which they can take into their post 16 studies, we also offer a drop in lunch time support session once a week. We also offer after school extension and support, and opportunity to attend masterclasses online and in the Easter Break. There is opportunity for additional reading, enrichment 9

At KS5, we offer extra intervention sessions for students who want extra support or want to learn beyond the curriculum, which they can take into their post 16 studies, we also offer after school extension and support, and masterclasses online and in the Easter Break.