



Psychology

Why Psychology?

Psychology is a fascinating A level, a scientific exploration of the brain, mind, behaviour and all it is to be human. Across the first year, we study a vast breadth of academic research exploring human memory including the fragility of Eyewitness Testimony, false memories, and the huge impact of anxiety on the accuracy of recall. We investigate how others affect our behaviour and the Psychology behind the blind obedience in Nazi Germany, considering questions such as “would you fatally shock someone at 450 volts because you were told to”? Add into this Developmental and Clinical Psychology, studying childhood relationships and their impact on crime and adulthood, characteristics, explanations and treatments of mental health conditions including OCD, Phobia and depression. Year 2 brings even more to our learning with Biopsychology, Schizophrenia, relationships and forensics, to name just a few. Psychology is underpinned by core scientific method, debate, and comparing diverse psychological approaches. If you love Science, research and analysing academic literature, this is the subject for you! You won't be bored, but you will be challenged!

What can I expect?

A vast selection of academic research – be prepared for lots of reading, analysis and evaluation. We bring Psychology “from the page to the person” by looking at real life cases to enrich our understanding.

How will I be assessed?

Exam questions are varied and include multiple choice, short answers, application questions and extended essays of 16 marks – where there is emphasis on discussion. Be prepared for mathematics and scientific method embedded into our teaching. No coursework, 3 x 2-hour exams at the end of the course.

What do I need?

As a recognised science, a strong foundation of GCSE Grade 5 is required in mathematics, science and English and/or a humanity will also prepare for the essay element of the course. You do not need to have studied GCSE Psychology to study A level, but if you have, a grade 5 or above would be a minimum expectation.

What about the future?

Psychology applies itself to all careers and develops vital academic skills ahead of further study. You could go on to study Psychology at undergraduate level or professional qualifications in clinical, forensic or occupational psychology. Psychology lends itself to any occupation working with others and students have gone on to study Business, Marketing, Medicine, and Education amongst a wide range of opportunities.