



## PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

It is our intent to inspire students to learn about Psychology due to the valuable context it provides to historical and current events as well as the increased knowledge of others as a result of viewing the world from different perspectives. We believe that a well-informed understanding of human behaviour is important because it helps pupils to appreciate and respect differences in the world and its people. All staff focus on real-life application that engenders love of the subject in a curriculum designed to balance the need to prepare for exams without ever detracting from enjoyment.

### YEAR 12

- Students start by looking at the main Approaches in Psychology; each has its own way of explaining human behaviour and we will examine the similarities and differences between them.
- They will then use the theories from the main approaches to study Psychopathology; focusing on conditions such as phobias, OCD and depression.
- The approaches use a range of Research Methods to study human behaviour; students will learn about these different methods and carry out their own research with participants.
- In Attachment, students will learn about how early childhood experiences can have a profound impact on later behaviour.
- They will understand what causes people to conform and obey in the topic of Social Influence.
- During the topic of Memory, students will learn about why we forget as well as factors that influence the accuracy of eyewitness testimony.
- In Biopsychology, students will learn about how our brains recover after damage as well as how our sleep-wake cycle works.

### YEAR 13

- Within the topic of Issues and Debates, students will look at the relative importance of nature and nurture and whether we are free to choose our behaviour.
- They will also look at the application of psychological theories to help us understand and treat conditions in the topics of Addiction and Schizophrenia.
- Students will then study the topic of Gender where they will learn about the different explanations of gender, as well as the impact of atypical sex chromosome patterns and the causes of gender dysphoria.

#### **How the course is taught**

Students are taught by two teachers, this allows students to learn about two different topics simultaneously. We aim to use a range of teaching and learning activities in lessons, the most common activities include:

- Watching footage of key psychological studies
- Taking part in practical research to replicate studies that students are learning about
- Using textbooks to make notes on key studies and theories
- Applying what has been learned to real-life behaviour
- Reviewing key content through interactive starters such as Kahoot
- Working independently out of lessons researching topics to feed back to the group in discussions.

**How the course is assessed**

At the end of the A-Level course, students will sit three exams; each will consist of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions. There is no coursework in Psychology and we follow the AQA exam board.