

Subject Intent Statement: A Level Sociology

Impact

The Social Sciences department believes that studying sociology gives students the opportunity to delve deeper into society and understand how it functions through critically examining ways of life. The sociology curriculum is aiming to create young sociologists who evaluate society around them, whilst also allowing them to gain an appreciation of how and why society works in the way that it does. Students will be exposed to a range of sociological skills and knowledge, as well as an appreciation for the work of key sociologists in the past and present.

Goal for every student

- For all students to have a strong understanding of the key institutions in society (e.g. education, health care system, criminal justice system, and the media)
- For all students to explore and examine the impact and influence of key institutions in understanding society
- For all students to be able to identify and critically analyse different sociological approaches, perspectives and significant studies
- For all students to develop an understanding of investigative techniques when carrying out sociological research
- For all students to develop independent critical thinking regarding contemporary societal issues and societal structures

Implemented pace

The curriculum is sequenced logically, Year 12 enables students to build a sociological vocabulary, via an introduction to how sociologists study society and sociological theory, through to Year 13 where pupils are challenged to debate the relative values of different theoretical perspectives and how sociology can be applied to enable social change today. Each topic makes synoptic links to previous content, allowing pupils knowledge to grow sequentially.

Year 12 Content

1. Health (Term 1-2)
2. Theory & Methods - Research Methods (Term 2)
3. Education & Methods in Context (Term 3-5)
4. Theory & Methods – Debates & Perspectives (Term 6)

Year 13 Content

1. Media (Term 1-2)
2. Crime & Deviance (Term 3-4)
3. Summer examination series

Course details

Paper 1 – Education with Methods in Context (2hrs)

Paper 2 – Topics in Sociology [Health & Media] (2hrs)

Paper 3 – Crime & Deviance with Theory & Methods (2hrs)

Impact

Students will know and understand the key aspects of sociology and how social groups such as class, age, gender and ethnicity may impact the life course of an individual. Students will be able to use their deep knowledge and understanding of sociology and apply it to the real world enabling them to think and work like the sociologists that they study. Students will be able to demonstrate independence, curiosity and resilience, both verbally and in their written work.