

Intent: A-level Psychology

Our course focuses on enabling our students to develop a knowledge of human and animal behaviour which allows them to understand the complexity of psychological issues through real world examples. We expect our students to take responsibility for their own learning and progress by being prepared and fully aware of the skills and knowledge they need to draw upon. Key assets required for a successful adult life.

Goal for every student: A-level Psychology

- Every student should be able to recognise the difference between A01, A02 and A03 skills in psychology.
- Every student should be familiar with their target grade, as well as grades they have achieved in mock exams and other key assessments.
- Every student should be able to recall the layout of the three exams, including which topics are examined in which exam.
- Every student should be aware of the core approaches and methods that are integrated throughout the whole course: cognitive, social, biological, developmental, individual differences and research methods.

Implemented pace: A-level Psychology

- Each topic is delivered through 16 hours of teaching. Some topics may need more or less time depending on the confidence of the group.
- More time will be needed on research methods as this is central to the subject (25% of the A-level).

- Each topic will have a 16-mark question set (apart from research methods), as well as a full 24-mark assessment.
- Year 12 start with the research methods and approaches topic. This is because these two are the core elements of the course and are revisited in various other topics. After this, the group move onto studying the topics needed for paper one (memory, social influence, psychopathology and attachment). This makes sense in terms of sequencing as this is the first exam that the group will face in year thirteen. After paper two, the group move onto the final part of paper two – biopsychology. The group would have already studied the other two elements of paper two (approaches and research methods) at the start of year twelve.
- In year thirteen the group start with forensic psychology. This is merely due to the amount of young people who apply for criminology/law-based degrees in the past. It gives them the knowledge and capacity to add to their personal statement, as well as being signposted to wider reading that might well set them aside from other candidates.

Impact: A-level Psychology

Our study of Psychology shines a light on our own behaviour and the behaviour of others. It brings about empathy, tolerance and an appreciation of how interconnected and complex our lives as humans has become. Furthermore, we examine the subject material from a stance of sensitivity and understanding. Such traits are necessary should students follow a career into health disciplines.