



## Sociology

### Rationale

Sociology helps students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification.

Students will develop their analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions.

By studying sociology, students will develop transferable skills including how to; investigate facts and make deductions, develop opinions and new ideas on social issues, analyse and better understand the social world.

### Year 9

In year 9 we study education within sociology first as this allows students to be able to understand difficult concepts and be able to apply them to a current setting within society. We study the family so that students can understand the different family settings within society and what might happens in families that could cause changes, this gives them a better understanding of different people and the world around them. It also teaches skills to critically view different theories on society that will be useful throughout the GCSE and the A-Level.

### Year 10

In year 10 we aim to develop students' knowledge of crime within society and an understanding around some of the situations that can lead to crime to better understand who commits crime. We also aim to develop students understanding of the reasons and impact of social inequality to give students' a better understanding of inequality in society in order to promote the importance of equality and fairness between social groups within society.

### Year 11

In year 11 we aim to consolidate all of the topics taught and learnt throughout the course and allow students to critically assess aspects of society and also allows them to apply this to the demands of the GCSE examination.

### Post 16 Sociology Rationale

Studying sociology offers insights into social and cultural issues. It helps you develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issues around culture, identity, religion, crime, families and social power. More than once during the course you're bound to ask yourself the question, "why has society developed like this? With poverty, ignorance, crime and injustice."

We aim to enable students to have a clear and understanding of all social institutions within the world around them. This gives students the opportunity to become effective and informed members of society and can understand the different institutions that enable society to function properly.

### Year 12

Year 12 aims to introduce concepts and sociological theories applying them to concepts that they are familiar with such as family and education. This allows students to develop an understanding of society and sociological theory to then be able to apply this to society as a whole in year 13. Also to develop critical thinking skills to be able to question existing ideas within society.

### Year 13

Year 13 will build upon the knowledge that has been learnt in year 12 and allow students to use the sociological theories in a broader context to apply it to society as a whole. We also aim to develop the critical and evaluative skills of students as these are skills required either in the world of work or on a higher education course.

## Psychology

### **Post 16 Psychology Rationale**

Psychology will give you an understanding of the way people think and why people behave in certain ways. You will learn a variety of skills including analytical thinking, improved communication, problem solving and many more that will prepare you for an exciting future with the possibility of a range of fantastic careers.

#### **Year 12**

We aim to provide students with the basic concepts that can influence behaviour such as obedience, conformity, memory, attachment and psychopathology to start the students thinking about why people behave in a certain way. We will also teach transferable skills such as critical analytical writing, which not only will be good for year 13 but will also be useful on a higher education course.

#### **Year 13**

We aim to build upon the basic concepts learnt in Year 12 and apply them to wider topics such as relationships, eating disorders and forensic psychology. We have chosen these topics as these are relatable with other social science subjects such as Sociology, criminology and health and social care. Develop skills further too critically analyse the reasons why people behave in a certain way, these skills are transferable to the world of work or a higher education course.

## Criminology

### **Post 16 Criminology Rationale**

Criminology is the study of the reasons why individuals commit crimes. By understanding why a person commits a crime, we can develop ways to control crime or rehabilitate the criminal. There are many theories in criminology. You will develop an understanding of the theoretical explanations of why people commit crime. You will learn about the sociological, psychological and biological theories of crime and be able to use these explanations to analyse criminal situations. You will also gain an understanding of the criminal justice system. The way society defines crime and deviance is also explored during the course in conjunction with ways of finding out about crimes, including crimes that tend to be under-reported. In addition, you will also examine the reporting of crime in the media to see the impact this has on public perceptions of crime.

#### **Year 12**

We aim to give all students a basic understanding of the different theories of criminality such as biological, individualistic and sociological. This will enable the students to gain an understanding of the reasons behind criminality. We will be developing creativity skills as the first controlled assessment includes making materials to raise awareness of a crime.

#### **Year 13**

We aim to build upon the theories learnt in Year 12 to apply them not only to criminality, but to punishments as well, also including why laws are made and why these are social constructs. We will be building upon earlier skills learnt and apply them to writing a report about a criminal case review, this will allow students to look critically at a criminal investigation and decide whether it has a safe and just verdict. This is a useful academic skill which could be used within the workplace or a higher education course.

