



GCSE: PSYCHOLOGY

Examining Board: OCR

Subject Leader: Mr A Black

Teacher: Miss E Dickinson

Course Overview:

Psychology GCSE is a subject that studies the science of behaviour. As a Social Science, you will look at the biological structures and functions of the brain to explain where behaviour comes from. It also requires the ability to evaluate research methods and handle data as 10% of the exam assesses mathematical skills.

If you have ever wondered what makes people 'tick', then Psychology is the subject for you. You will gain an understanding of how people behave and the causes of that behaviour. For example: Why is it that some people turn out to become serial killers? Why do we remember information? Why do we develop different personalities? By studying Psychology, you will gain an understanding of life that you may not have considered before.

Studying Psychology is a brilliant step if you are interested in research and/or would like a future career that involves people. The subject supports traditional routes such as clinical psychology, forensic psychology or working with neuroscience, however, the beauty of our subject is that it doesn't close off any doors and has many transferable skills.

Criminal Psychology - criminal behaviour, the influence of society and video games on criminal behaviour, the role of rehabilitation and prisons.

Development - the development of brain structures and functions, theories of cognitive development and impacts of education.

Psychological problems - mental health, the impacts, schizophrenia, depression, different treatments.

Social influence - collective and crowd behaviour, conformity, the effects of other people and our own personality on the way we behave.

Memory - understanding information processing, types of forgetting, models of memory.

Sleep and dreaming - the functions, features and benefits of sleep, sleep disorders and their treatments, the nature of dreaming.

Research methods - how to plan, do and analyse psychological research in a reliable, valid and ethical way, where you can draw meaningful conclusions.



About the Exam:

You'll have two, 1 hour 30 minute exams at the end of the summer term of Year 11. Each exam is worth 50% of your total mark.

Exam 1 - Studies and applications in psychology 1

Criminal Psychology
Development
Psychological Problems
Research Methods

Exam 2 - Studies and applications in psychology 2

Social Influence
Memory
Sleep and Dreaming
Research Methods