

Key Stage 5

Subject: Psychology

Intent

The Psychology department's mission statement is: "To develop students' **critical thinking skills** and **understanding of the world through the lens of Psychology**, whilst instilling and maintaining high standards and expectations, so that our students become well equipped and successful independent learners. We want a department which **challenges students** and staff, where **self-reflection** is key to make progress, with all working together towards a common goal."

In order to achieve this, the curriculum delivery has been carefully planned and sequenced to enable students to **gradually build on both knowledge and skills**. Students start studying Psychology as a new subject at Key Stage 5, and most will not have done any psychology before. We start with Approaches and Research methods and these give **core knowledge** needed to help understand the other topics. We then deliver the paper 1 topics as we are able to teach **essay writing skills** and exam practice through these topics. The optional units in Paper 3 were chosen taking into account that we are in a girls' school, teachers' specialisms and general interests and are delivered in the second year – they have links to topics covered in the first 2 units so the sequencing is logical and beneficial for students. We also review national results in examination results to ensure the topics we choose are the ones most likely to lead to **high outcomes** for our students. We pride ourselves in being an **inclusive community**, and through the study of Psychology, help our students to learn about, and celebrate, the rich diversity that makes our world strive. Thoughtful consideration is given to ensure sensitive topics are discussed within a **safe and respectful environment**, within which everyone's views can be heard and respected, thereby increasing our students' awareness of themselves and others.

Programme of study and assessment

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Research Methods (Paper 2)• Approaches (Paper 2)• Attachment (Paper 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Memory (Paper 1)• Psychopathology (Paper 1)• Attachment (Paper 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Influence (Paper 1)• Research Methods (Paper 2)• Attachment (Paper 1)• BioPsychology introduction (summer work)
Assessment	<p><u>October:</u> settling in assessment (Research Methods & Approaches – short questions)</p> <p><u>November:</u> in class mock (RM, Approaches &</p>	<p><u>Regular mini assessments in each topic – short exam questions and quizzes</u></p> <p><u>End of topic tests:</u> Memory & Psychopathology (all topics assessed)</p>	<p><u>Regular mini assessments in each topic – short exam questions and quizzes</u></p> <p><u>End of topic tests:</u> Attachment (all topics assessed)</p> <p><u>End of year 12 mock:</u> hybrid paper (mix of</p>

	Attachment, includes one 16 marks essay) <u>Regular mini assessments in each topic – short exam questions and quizzes</u>		paper 1 and paper 2 topics – e.g. social influence, memory, RM & approaches)
Year 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BioPsychology (Paper 2) • Schizophrenia (Paper 3) • Gender (Paper 3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggression (Paper 3) • Issues & Debates (Paper 3) • Schizophrenia (Paper 3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Methods (Paper 2) • Revision • Exam practice
Assessment	<u>End of topic test:</u> BioPsychology (all topic assessed) <u>Regular mini assessments in each topic – short exam questions and quizzes</u> <u>Paper 1 assessment:</u> November – (Social influence, Memory & Attachment)	<u>January mock: Paper 2</u> (BioPsychology, Approaches & RM) <u>Regular mini assessments in each topic – short exam questions and quizzes</u> <u>End of topic test:</u> Aggression & Schizophrenia (all topics assessed)	<u>Paper 3 assessment:</u> April (Issues & Debates, Gender, Aggression & Schizophrenia) <u>Regular mini assessments in each topic – short exam questions and quizzes</u>