Psychology A Level

Subject Leader: Dr. Peterson

Syllabus: AQA

Course Specification: 7181/7182

Course Overview
Psychology questions the way we think about our world and behaviour, so ask yourself this question: Are you ready to question the way we behave?

Psychology is a science and therefore you will need to study research and evidence objectively. There is also a high demand for a good biological understanding and core mathematics skills.

Psychology enables you to question human behaviour and therefore is a great subject for those wanting to work in healthcare professions, teaching, law, and business.

Course Requirements
5 GCSEs graded 9 – 5 including Maths, English, and a Science at grade 6.

Year 1
Topics are taught through a variety of approaches and methods related to the core areas of Psychology – cognitive, social, biological, developmental, individual differences and research methods, explanations from different approaches, along with psychological issues and debates:

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health
- Approaches in Psychology
- Research Methods
- Biopsychology

Year 2
A-Level students can choose from a range of attractive topic options ensuring that they experience an interesting, diverse, and coherent course of study.

- Issues and Debates
- Relationships (Options)
- Schizophrenia (Options)
- Forensic Psychology (Options)
- Research Methods
- Biopsychology

Assessment Information
Assessments employ a variety of types of question such as multiple choice, short answer, and extended writing/essays, which target the skills of knowledge and understanding, application and evaluation. Students' understanding of research methods are gained through classroom experience of practical Psychology and will be assessed using the familiar scenario-based question style and research methods questions embedded in topics.

External assessments are taken at the end of the two-year course in the following ways:

Paper 1 – Introductory topics in Psychology: 96 marks, 2 hours
Paper 2 – Psychology in context: 96 marks, 2 hours
Paper 3 – Issues and Options in Psychology: 96 marks, 2 hours

Career Opportunities
Psychology A Level is considered a very useful subject by universities and colleges, particularly in the fields of business and economics, marketing and advertising, childcare and social work, health-related courses, occupational therapy and speech therapy, sports science, law, hotel management and tourism and teaching. A degree in psychology opens careers in a vast range of areas where interpersonal relations and an understanding of human behaviour are essential or valuable, while offering Sixth Formers the chance to develop a range of important transferable skills. The discipline has a number of branches that can be pursued and following the completion of relevant British Psychological Society recognised qualifications, can for instance, lead to achieving a chartered status, as a Clinical, Counselling or Educational Psychologist.

