

## HCHS Curriculum Purpose Statement –Psychology

With an ever increasing awareness of Psychology, it is fast becoming a part of day-to-day life. The relevance of psychology in our daily lives provides us with opportunities to contextualise psychological theory and research through the discussion of everyday behaviours and events, developing students' understanding of the real world applications of the subject.

We aim to offer students an engaging, stimulating and coherent introduction to psychology by fostering their interest in the subject and developing their psychological knowledge and literacy, allowing them to fully understand and effectively discuss psychological issues with confidence. We aim to continuously promote the development of students' transferable skills in communication, analysis and evaluation, as well as their ability to apply their knowledge of psychology research studies and theories to a range of social and cultural contexts. We additionally aim to foster the development of students' independent and critical thought, preparing students not only for A Level exam success, but success beyond in Higher Education and the workplace.

The scope of our curriculum provides frequent opportunities for pupils to build new knowledge on prior learning and develop synopticity throughout the specification. The psychology specification builds on knowledge and skills acquired in Maths, Science and Humanities during KS4. We incorporate practical research opportunities to allow student to experience the practical nature of research (rather than just learning the theory) and this is applied in various topics across the specification so their knowledge and experience of research methods is continually reinforced. The aim is to develop their professional and ethical practice of psychology along with their understanding of "how it is done". The aim of our experimental/investigative approach being to promote the use of scientific method and enquiry thus developing student's abilities to problem solve and make decisions. The practical approach promotes engagement and allows new knowledge to be acquired through practical experience. We want students to leave lessons feeling inspired, challenged and with a curiosity to find out more whilst being fully equipped to do so.

### **Key Stage 5:**

#### **By the end of Key stage 5 students will be able to:**

Demonstrate their critical thinking skills by being able to question evidence/data and not just accept it at face value. This will be linked to the research methods section of the course as well as their communication skills, where discussion and debate of topical psychological issues and debates will be promoted.

Demonstrate appropriate and effective application of mathematical knowledge and skills within the psychology specification. The Maths skills requirement will be taught in such a way as to reinforce students GCSE knowledge. These skills will be developed through the specification content and the use of practical activities involving the design of research, conducting research and analysing and interpreting data.

Employ effective examination technique. These skills will be practiced and developed to allow students to become familiar with the style of A level examination questions they will face at the end of their course. This will be paired with a variety of revision techniques. In carrying out research, students will manage associated risks and use ICT.

We hope that as a result of all of the above students will have developed a positive working relationship with their teachers and enjoyed their psychology education so much that as many as possible would wish to pursue psychology or a related subject in Higher Education in one way or another.

They will develop a deep understanding of their subject and be able to make links across the specification

Students will be able to identify any barriers that are holding back their learning and take the necessary steps to overcome these. They will become more resilient in their approach to being given more independent study tasks and be able to overcome any initial setbacks with the support of their teachers.

We hope they will develop a passion for psychology and have a curiosity to learn more and a desire to read beyond the boundaries of the exam board specification. Extra-curricular reading material are provided including periodicals which include articles to develop understanding of specification topics.

A positive working relationship between students and teachers is a priority in psychology and we encourage awareness of emotive topics, the effects it may have on others and indeed, any issues that may arise from the study of these topics on our students. One-to-one support is always available.