

# Subject overview for: Psychology

## 1. Subject overview

### The two year A level course at JM6 aims to ensure that students:

- develop an in-depth understanding about the way people think
- develop knowledge and understanding of theoretical approaches and research methods and be able to apply this knowledge to human behaviour and real-world situations
- are enabled to view the world from different perspectives and develop critical reasoning skills
- are helped to plan and conduct their own psychological research and develop an understanding of potential ethical issues and ways psychologists deal with them
- are helped to understand their own and other behaviour and gain an understanding of different ways of dealing with behaviours and disorders
- develop their critical thinking skills to enable them to write coherent essays with effective evaluation and to be able to apply their knowledge successfully in exam questions
- are inspired to apply for Psychology or Psychology related degree courses at Russell group universities

## 2. Sixth Form courses

### **A level Psychology**

In the first term of Year 12 students begin to develop a grasp of the new terminology and skills required to become an effective psychologist. Three modules are taught in the Autumn term – Social Influence, Memory and Approaches in Psychology.

Students have a summative assessment at the end of each module and formative assessment is built into every lesson.

In the spring term students build on the knowledge they have gained and cover Attachments and Psychopathology – where the Approaches covered in the Autumn term are applied to explaining phobias, OCD and depression. Research Methods is built into all the modules where appropriate and then put into practice through exam question practice.

In the summer term students revise for the summer UCAS prediction exams as well as starting the Year 13 content. The Psychodynamic and Humanistic approaches are covered to complete the Approaches module and the Year 13 content of Biopsychology is taught. Students also plan, carry out and report their own group research studies in the Summer term.

Links between topics are developed and topics are revisited at every opportunity throughout the year to develop mastery of the subject.

In the Autumn term of Year 13 students study the 3 option modules – Schizophrenia, Relationships, and Forensic Psychology. In the spring term Issues and Debates are applied to Psychological research previously studied and research methods reviewed through plenty of past exam practice.

The focus is then on revising, in particular focusing on the Year 12 content in preparation for the external exams.

### **3. Contribution to preparing for life in modern Britain/equalities**

Psychology helps students prepare for life in modern Britain as they develop an understanding of why people act the way they do. With this insight, Psychology can help students improve their decision making, mental health and behaviour based on understanding past behaviour to better predict future behaviour. Students also develop an understanding of the importance of infant parent attachments that impact on future generations as well as learning about aspects of successful relationships. Learning about Social Influence and Independent Behaviour contributes to making students more aware of how minorities can have a positive impact on Social change.

### **4. Contribution to careers provision**

Psychology students develop a wide range of transferable skills, from analysis and statistics to research and presentation. For example, students research one of phobias, OCD, depression and prepare and present on the characteristics of the disorder.