

Psychology at FSG Curriculum Overview

Vision

Psychology at FSG fundamentally aims to allow girls to leave with a greater understanding of the human mind and behaviour – and ultimately a good A level grade qualification in this. Psychology allows us to understand more about our own thoughts, emotions and behaviours, and gives the tools to investigate this from a scientific perspective. It allows students to question fundamental approaches of studying human behaviour and the issues and debates around this. It also encourages inquisitive thinking, constantly questioning why we think and behave the way we do.

Students will leave with the confidence and motivation to understand themselves and others better. To take their knowledge learnt and apply to their everyday lives.



Skills

The skills developed as part of the course are well balanced. In term of academic work, students will learn essay writing skills, structure, summarising information, and careful analysis and evaluation of theories by giving commentary on strengths, limitations, issues and debates.

Students will develop mathematical skills in the understanding and application of descriptive/inferential statistics when analysing data, and scientific understanding of our biological and the influence on our behaviour, as well as scientific methods and testing used.

Alongside the academic skills, students will also develop in applying knowledge to familiar and unfamiliar scenarios. They will develop confidence and self-esteem throughout engagement in lessons and discussions. Students will also show a creative side in class activities and an encouragement to always try new methods in acquiring, learning and retaining new information.

Enrichment

Around the course content for psychology, wider reading is actively encouraged on any topic, rather than those specifically studied as part of the exam content. In term 6, students will undergo their own research topic on a choice of their own subject, actively researching the area of interest and gathering data from volunteer participants.

Psychology taster sessions at university are organised where possible and students are encouraged to attend these also to give a wider view of psychology at a higher level.

Sixth form students will also have the opportunity to organise a 'club' for the younger year groups, again, choosing from a variety of material (not just the exam content) and help encourage activities and games relevant to studying behaviour with Yr 7's and 8's.

Knowledge

The course content is built around the AQA exam specification and covers the following topics. Student will learn about a variety of research studies and theories within each of these areas.

Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology, Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research Methods, Issues and Debates in Psychology.

And then 1 option from Relationships, Gender or Cognition and Development,

1 option from Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour or Stress, and

1 option from Aggression, Forensic Psychology or Addiction.