Welcome to Psychology! We are delighted that you have chosen this challenging and fascinating Science A Level, and we really hope that you will enjoy the course and get great results. You will no doubt start with many questions; below we try to answer some FAQs to help you get off to a good start.

1. Who will teach me?

There are four members of the Social Science Department, all of whom teach Psychology (though not necessarily in any given year). Ms Williams and Ms Zoil are both full time; Mr Dougherty works on Thursdays and Fridays and Mrs Harris has a limited timetable as she is Deputy Head. Our office is very conveniently located opposite Sixth Form Central.

2. What will I learn?

Psychology is a very broad subject with lots of approaches and topic areas. A Level gives you a taster of several issues and will introduce you to the different ways in which people explain and investigate human behaviour.

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<th>YEAR 1</th>
<th>YEAR 2 (some topics will be started in Summer of Year 12)</th>
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It’s a really good idea to familiarise yourself with the specification and the language used in it. You will find this on the AQA website. We are lucky in Psychology in that the questions asked in exams are all linked to the specification - so if you need to know what’s in it in order to understand what questions are getting at! We will of course be going beyond the specification to extend your learning and to give you the deep insights needed for top grades.

*Please note: we have no current plans to change the options listed above; but if results suggest you might do better on a different topic, we may change the options that we teach.*
There is no coursework in Psychology, but you do need to develop a sense of how psychological research is conducted. You will get opportunities to conduct research, including conducting your own independent investigation project in the summer of Year 12.

2. How can I get a good head start in Psychology?

Use the A Level Mindset in Psychology form for ideas about extended reading and useful habits to get you off to a good start. You should also read over your notes after each lesson, making sure you fully understand what we have covered and noting any questions you may have for next lesson. Keep a glossary from the outset - there is a lot of technical terminology in this subject and you need to ‘speak fluent Psychologese’ to do well!

It is also never too early to start making revision notes! Use flash cards, mindmaps and thinking maps to summarise key ideas and keep these safe - they will be invaluable in the run up to your exams.

The Library is well stocked with books in our subjects, so make sure that you check out what it has to offer at an early stage. Lots of extra reading and links (eg to useful articles, MOOCs and Ted talks) will also be suggested on the Google Classroom (see 7 below).

3. How am I tested in Psychology?

The final exam will be three two hour written papers, each of equal weight (96 marks). They comprise a mix of short and long questions, including multiple choice and essays. Many of the questions are linked to a scenario, so you have to apply your knowledge.

During your course, you will be given regular assessments which may be either a selection of short questions or essays. Please print out the ‘generic mark scheme for essays’ and keep a copy at the front of your folder. You will also have extended end of topic tests. It is important that you prepare thoroughly for every assessment as these will form the basis for decisions about tracking and UCAS predicted grades.

4. How do I know how well I am doing?

You should track your progress and the feedback you are given using the progress form. Again, please print this out and keep it up to date in your folder. You are also very welcome to discuss your progress with your teachers.

5. How do I organise my folders?

It is up to you to find a way to manage your notes - they are your notes, after all - but you need to ensure that you are bringing to lessons notes from the current topic and that you have a separate section for marked work, your progress record and other general documents.
You may sometimes be asked to produce at short notice all your work for a work scrutiny, so you need to make sure that it is easy to assemble all your notes in one place in a logical way.

You should keep all marked work, even if the grade you get is disappointing. Revisiting old mistakes is an important part of learning!

6. What do I need to bring to lessons?

You should always come fully prepared for lessons. That means you need to bring your own stationery, textbooks, and your notes/folders.

7. What other resources are there?

You will be invited to join Google ‘Classroom’, our online learning system. There will be a classroom for general Psychology interest and your teacher(s) may set one up for their particular parts of the course. Please make sure that you leave notifications switched on, and that you regularly check these sites.

8. I have missed a lesson. What should I do?

Catch up by borrowing notes from someone who is in the same class as you, checking Classroom where appropriate and doing any necessary reading. If you still are not sure about topics covered, see the relevant member of staff. Please do not expect staff to e-mail you details of missed work as a matter of course.

If you miss an assessment, you will need to arrange with your teacher to catch up under timed conditions during a free period in school.

9. I don’t understand something. What should I do?

You should always feel comfortable asking for help in lessons, and speaking to your teacher(s) afterwards. If you think you need help beyond what is feasible in the classroom, then you should come along to surgery, which is held on Mondays in B006 at 2pm. If we feel that you need extra help or clarification, we may invite you to attend.

10. I want to do Psychology at University.

Great! Please let staff know what your plans are. We are also interested in learning more about what different universities offer on their courses, so it would be really helpful to get your views after you have been on visits and open days.

Ms Williams
September 2019