

Psychology

Statement of Intent

The Social Science department at Raynes Park delivers an effective introduction to Psychology; the study of human behaviour, following the AQA A-Level specification. We introduce students to the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. Psychology at Raynes Park is a subject that enables our students to develop their knowledge of psychological approaches, issues, research studies, theories and models in a range of topic areas (attachment, social influence, psychopathology, memory, research methods, approaches, biopsychology, issues and debates, schizophrenia, aggression and relationships). Psychology includes elements of many other disciplines including English Language, Mathematics, Biology and History. Students develop the higher level skill of evaluation by looking at strengths, limitations, issues and the ability to compare and contrast theories and approaches. This allows them to understand the complexity of psychological issues and move away from simplistic answers towards more developed discussions. Psychology at RPHS incorporates and supports the school and sixth form ethos of respect, resilience and results by getting students to develop the ability to use their knowledge and understanding to apply Psychology to the real world, using current news topics and historical events.

Key Stage 5 Curriculum

Students will study the AQA A-Level Psychology specification and over the two-year course they will study Social Influence, Attachment, Psychopathology, Memory, Research Methods, Approaches, Issues and Debates, Biopsychology, Relationships, Aggression and Schizophrenia. They will be externally assessed through three 2-hour exam papers at the end of the two-year course.

Extended Learning

What we offer to extend the learning of our students

Students should access documentaries, as advised by their class teachers on topics linked to the specification and to extend understanding.

Students in KS5, within their tutor programme and supervised study have the opportunity to access academic journals and books. Students will be guided by the department to do further reading on relevant topics.

Students should access TED talks by some of the world's most renowned psychologists.

Trips, where possible, will be arranged by the department to museums eg. Freud Museum and places of interest as the course progresses.

Trips to listen to speakers will be arranged in the local area on psychology topics and outside speakers will visit to discuss careers and topics to give students greater insight into future opportunities and to develop their knowledge and understanding beyond the curriculum.

What can parents do to support extended learning in this subject

Students should and are expected to keep up to date with current affairs by watching and/or reading reputable news providers. Parents/carers can encourage discussion of current affairs as debating is a common theme in lesson time.

Parents/ carers could encourage a passion for psychology by encouraging reading around topics, visits to museums and by keeping up to date with current affairs.

