

Statement of Intent

Sociology helps students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of core topics such as families, education, crime and deviance, social stratification and beliefs of society. Students will develop their analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions. By studying Sociology, students will develop transferable skills including how to investigate facts and make deductions, develop opinions and new ideas on social issues, analyse and better understand the social world.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Students study key ideas of classical sociologists including Durkheim, Marx and Weber, referencing their view of the world and their contribution to the development of the discipline. Students will also learn how to apply various research methods to different sociological contexts. They will be introduced to sociological terms and concepts concerned with social structures, social processes and social issues. They will do this through four topics of study of Family, Education, Social Stratification and Crime and Deviance. Students will sit two papers of 1 hour 45 minutes.

Key Stage 5 Curriculum

Students will study five key topics of study: Families and Households, Crime and Deviance, Education, Beliefs of Society and Research Methods and Theory. Various sociological theories, perspectives and methods will be studied in depth including the issues surrounding the design of sociological research used to obtain the data, including its strengths and limitations. Synoptic links drawing out the connections between topic areas studied will be developed. Students will sit three papers which are 2 hours each.

Extended Learning

What we offer to extend the learning of our students

In year 10 students have the opportunity to attend the V&A Childhood Museum. Students are given suggestions on documentaries and additional reading to extend knowledge outside of the classroom.

What parents can do to support extended learning in this subject

To help support the student parents could encourage their children to read widely and keep up to date with current affairs by watching the news and television shows such as Panorama. This will allow students to apply theory to reality and to be able to critically engage with issues and actions in our society today. In addition to this, reading the foundations of sociological theory and using the sociology review periodicals and to assess critically the relevance of such concepts in society would be beneficial.