



Curriculum Intent: Sociology

Subject vision

The Social Sciences department believes that studying sociology gives students the opportunity to delve deeper into society and understand how it functions through critically examining ways of life. It aims to create responsible citizens with awareness of social issues such as inequality, prejudice and discrimination, and encourage students to lead healthy and happy lives by developing awareness of social issues which they can apply in their own lives. The knowledge and skills gained in Sociology aims to create students who are confident in developing and expressing their own informed opinions but are also respectful of the views of others.

We deliver our curriculum intent on a subject level by:

KS4 – AQA GCSE Sociology - GCSE Sociology helps our students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. 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, our 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.

KS5 – AQA Advanced Level Sociology - This is an area of study that enables our students to examine human values and culture, understand relationships and social interactions. Through critical analysis and empirical investigation, we enable our students to gain a better understanding of social order and change. They examine social behaviour from a variety of perspectives to discover how such behaviour originates, develops and manifests. Sociology is a broad field of study and one which is relevant to us all. Study in this field allows us to question who we are and our place in society. It seeks to understand how our human experience is shaped by our identity and background and challenges the concept of the status quo.

Enrichment

Visits and speakers are encouraged where possible.

In Sociology, students '**Achieve success**' by:

Encouraging high aspiration and a love of learning	Cultural capital is embedded throughout the Sociology curriculum. Our students are introduced to a wide variety of viewpoints from some of the most influential sociologists throughout history. We study the impact that their work has had on the world we live in and students are encouraged to make links between their studies and real life examples. They are
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	expected to analyse the relative contributions of competing theories in order to discuss their impact on our understanding of human behaviour and society as a whole.
Maximising progress and potential	Sociology teachers discuss with their students the possible career destinations which studying sociology can lead to. These include teaching, social and community work, work in the criminal justice system and policing. Many of our students go on to study Sociology at degree level and embark on careers in these fields.
Providing rewarding learning experiences	Critical thinking is essential to the study of Sociology. Students are constantly encouraged to question, challenge and compare different sources of information and different sociological theories. Students will be required to weigh up the information they have learnt in class and make a critical judgement about it in essay questions. It empowers students with intellectually challenging ideas and concepts and essential skills of critical thinking. We encourage students to make mistakes and learn from them, so they succeed in being resilient and courageous.
Offering diverse opportunities	The course is designed and delivered to nurture thoughtful and motivated young people, who can act responsibly as active citizens, and who believe in their ability to change their community for the better. At both KS4 and KS5 the Sociology curriculum challenges students to look beyond appearances and set aside their own personal beliefs to enable them to grow in compassion and kindness.
Recognising and celebrating all achievement	We cater for students across the whole spectrum of academic ability. Many students exceed target grades. Each year, students choose to take up Sociology at university or courses directly linked.

In Sociology, students '**Value Others**' by:

Contributing to a safe school environment	By studying Sociology our students will develop a greater sense of tolerance and understanding of class, gender and ethnic diversity and how this affects society and the individuals within it, therefore contributing to a safe school environment.
Showing tolerance, respect and fairness	Sociology aims to inspire, nurture and develop our students to be valuable citizens of our society. Popular topics such as families and relationships and crime and deviance have been selected by the Social Science Department. These are taught with sensitivity to the themes

	of respect, tolerance and fairness. A strong global dimension is included to reflect contemporary society. Sociology develops critical and reflective thinking with a respect for social diversity, and encourages an awareness of the importance of social structure and social action in explaining social issues.
Listening to and respecting others' views	Sociology puts great emphasis on discussions and the safe handling of them. Students can disagree but we reinforce excellent listening skills. Acknowledging other views is an integral part of the essays students produce (in line with the GCSE and Advanced Level courses)
Appreciating and embracing diversity	Identity and cultural diversity are central themes in Sociology. We consider the different aspects of our lives which make up our identity and we also consider cultural differences around the world, in the UK and within institutions such as schools.
Being an active member of our school and local community	By developing a greater awareness of social issues such as discrimination, inequality and poverty, students are more likely to take an interest and participate in events and activities within their local community.
Co-operating with others	Students will gain a holistic and critical appreciation of sociology through use of a range of teaching strategies that promote independent, student-led learning and active learning, such as well-structured debates and discussions and practical activities to deepen students understanding and enjoyment, whilst building core skills. A key focus of the curriculum is active engagement in sociological research and students will complete independent research tasks, solidifying their research methods skills.