

Psychology

Method of Assessment

100% examination. Consisting of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing
Paper 1 exam (1h 45 min) and Paper 2 exam (1h 45 min) are both taken at the end of Year 11.

Course Content

Paper 1 – Cognition and behaviour

- **Memory** - How does your memory work? Why do we forget? How accurate are eyewitness testimonies?
- **Perception** – What are different types of perceptions? How are visual illusions explained? What factors influence different perceptions?
- **Development** – What are the biological changes in early development? What are the effects of learning on development?
- **Research methods** - What are experiments and how do we conduct them? What are ethical considerations in psychological research? How survey methods can be used? What are observation studies? What are correlations and how are they used in psychology?

Paper 2 – Social context and behaviour

- **Social influence** – What are the explanations of conformity, obedience, prosocial behaviour and crowd and collective behaviour?
- **Language, thought and communication** – What is the relationship between language and thought? What is the difference between human and animal communication? Non-verbal communication – How do we communicate? How do we use eye contact, facial expressions and body language? How important is personal space?
- **Brain and neuropsychology** – What are the structures and functions of the nervous system? What are the neuron structures and functions? What is neuroscience and how is it researched?
- **Psychological problems** – What are mental health illnesses? What are the characteristics of clinical depression? What are the different explanations of clinical depression? What are the characteristics of addiction? What are the different explanations of addiction?

Success Criteria: In order to be successful in GCSE Psychology, you need to:

- *Be interested in other people and reasons that motivate their behaviour.
- *Appreciate that we are all different and complex individuals.
- *Be able to think critically and try to follow each explanation with 'yeah but not but' argument.
- *Be open to many different explanations of human thinking and behaviour.
- *Be prepared to be attentive and disciplined during class work and class discussions.
- *Be inquisitive and wanting to find out why people do what they do.
- *Be able to show your commitment to the subject by organising and preparing your work carefully.
- *Be prepared to learn a range of studies and theories and apply them to the real world

Leading to:-

Initially, this subject will help you to develop better understanding of how your mind works, how your friends and parents influence you and how to cope better with stress, negative thinking, emotions and relationships with others. In the future, you might like to continue to work towards Psychology A level and Qualified Psychologist Status.