

# PSYCHOLOGY

## WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A Level Psychology provides students with a sound understanding of the various methods and approaches used in psychology. It is designed to develop students' critical thinking skills and will prepare them for higher level study.

### COURSE DETAILS

**Qualification:** A Level Psychology

**Awarding Body:** AQA

**Entry Requirements:** 5 GCSE grades A\*- C/4+ including English language grade 4, maths grade 5 and minimum 4 in GCSE Science

We aim to develop students' ability to interpret, evaluate and comment. Students are encouraged to develop an in-depth knowledge of core topics. This specification also allows them to demonstrate the ability to use scientific methodology in the context of psychology. There is no requirement for prior knowledge of Psychology when embarking on this course, however if you have studied GCSE Psychology, this would be an advantage. The eclectic mix of topics allows students to have a good all round knowledge of psychology that is fundamental to understanding human behaviour. It will also equip students with other necessary skills such as analysis and evaluation and learning how to carry out their own piece of research.

## COURSE STRUCTURE & ASSESSMENT

In year one of the course students will study the topics of social influence, memory, attachment, psychopathology and research methods. In year two students will cover the topics of approaches in psychology, biopsychology, research methods and issues and debates. There will also be three extra options in year two: gender, schizophrenia and forensic psychology. Students will sit three, two hour exams at the end of the two years, each worth 96 marks. These comprise of multiple choice questions as well as short answer questions and extended writing tasks. Question papers will assess students' ability to apply their knowledge rather than just the ability to learn material.

“ A Level Psychology traditionally involves the study of the human mind. We look at how different perspectives view the human mind and it's affects on our behaviour. Other topics we look at are how our mind can process and develop memories, how people can be so easily led to do things they'd never think of doing and treatments for severe mental disorders including depression and schizophrenia.

At university I plan to study Forensic Psychology, studying at Lymm has really prepared me for this as mixture of taught lessons and independent study sessions build your responsibility for your own learning. We had a criminal psychologist visit Sixth Form to talk to us about his average day at work. This was really insightful, particularly for me because it is the career I wish to pursue



CAMERON NYLAND