



WELCOME TO PSYCHOLOGY AT KING CHARLES

Subject Overview

Psychology is the study of mind and behaviour.

We study how the brain makes decisions as well as how we navigate the social environment.

As this subject is new to everybody, we have a lot to cover in a short space of time, and we can only really scratch the surface of what psychology is, but if you want to know...

-why you go upstairs to get something, forget what it was, but remember when you get downstairs again.

-why you hated a film, but say you liked it when friends said they liked it.

-where racism comes from...and what we do about it...

Then Psychology might be something to consider.

Meet the Department

Simon Robinson

Matt Pearson

Typical Lesson

All lessons start with a quiz; half of each quiz is based on the previous lesson, whilst the rest of the quiz is based on everything done up until that point.

There is a lot of new content that needs to be covered, as psychology is not a subject that any student will have encountered in their school life before, but this content is covered in a variety of engaging ways; discussion, video, scenarios and experiment.

Understanding is checked continuously through directed questions and whole class understanding using mini-white boards

What you will study (A LEVEL)

The subject is assessed with 3, 2 hour exams at the end of year 13.

- **Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology**

This covers the areas of social, cognitive, attachment psychology as well as mental health

- **Paper 2: Psychology in context**

This introduces the key approaches, as well as the area of research methods and statistics

- **Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology**

This looks at gender, Free will v determinism, nature v nurture and the idea of holism v reductionism. Finally, we look at 3 optional units: relationships, schizophrenia and forensic psychology

What you will study (BTEC)

YEAR 12

- **Unit 1: Psychological approaches and application**

This covers the areas of social, cognitive, biological and learning psychology, and then applies them to explain gender, aggression and consumer habits. Assessed through a 90 min exam

- **Unit 2: Conducting psychological research**

This introduces the area of research methods and statistics. Assessed through 2 pieces of coursework

Year 13

- **Unit 3: Health psychology**

This looks at why we engage in healthy and unhealthy lifestyles, as well as explaining addiction and stress, before going onto look at how we bring about healthy lifestyle changes. Assessed through a 2 hr exam

- **Unit 4: Criminal and forensic psychology**

In this unit, we explain why people display aggressive and antisocial behaviours, as well as looking at how we change these behaviours before finishing with the concept of criminal profiling. Assessed through 3 pieces of coursework

Careers/Subject Combinations

- Psychology looks at mind and behaviour, and as such, lends itself well to any profession that involves human interaction; notably education, police, social services and the criminal justice system, although business, advertising and human resources are also areas that benefit from psychological understanding.
- As psychology straddles the arts and the sciences, it works well with other A levels such as biology, sociology, criminology as well as geography.

What do our current students think?

"It's the MOST interesting subject! It's hard, but it's all really relevant"

"Be ready for the essays; there's a LOT of writing and just because you know something, doesn't mean that it's always that easy to explain to someone else what you know"

"My favourite subject. So many interesting ideas...when my mom says "What did you do at school? It's almost always psychology that I tell her about"

"You need to be good at English, Maths AND science to do well at psychology...but it's really interesting"



All of the King Charles I Open Evening resources can be found by visiting the [school website](#)



We look forward to welcoming you to our classrooms in September 2026