

Psychology

Psychology is the study of brain and behaviour and students begin by studying cognition and behaviour. Students will learn how psychologists conduct experiments and observations and how that data is interpreted and used to inform others. They then use these skills to critically evaluate the theories and methods of others. Students are required to understand how our memory works, what factors affect our memory, they also need to apply this knowledge to real-life scenarios and situations so that they can fully appreciate the complexity of human experience and relationships. Following on from memory, students then acquire an understanding of cognitive development and how people grow and learn through different stages. Moreover, they focus on mind sets and how these can have long term implications on our success. After establishing these skills and knowledge, students then apply this to understand how perception can affect our behaviour. They learn how visual illusions work and the different factors which affect our perception of the everyday world.

Once students have developed an understanding of cognition and behaviour, focus shifts to a social context. They investigate how social influence affects how we act, in particular the social and dispositional factors that affect conformity and obedience. They also develop an understanding of how our behaviour changes when we are bystanders to an event and when we are in a crowd. In addition to social influence, students then learn and evaluate how language, thought, and communication affects our behaviour and our interactions with others. Students also have an opportunity to explore the different structures and functions of the brain and how injury and illness to these areas directly impacts behaviour. They develop an understanding of what cognitive neuroscience is and the different scanning techniques used to identify brain functioning. The final part of the psychology journey involves psychological problems. Particular focus is on mental health and how that impacts both individuals and society. Students also develop an understanding of depression and addiction; how they are diagnosed, the psychological and biological causes, and the different treatments and therapies for these illnesses.

