



# NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

## SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM GUIDE

### PSYCHOLOGY

AQA

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least grade 6 in GCSE English, Mathematics and Biology.

It is not necessary to have studied this subject at GCSE in order to take it at A Level.



*"I realised Psychology is in everything! The news, sport, my family; it's all Psychology!"*

If you decide to choose to study Psychology in the Sixth form, you will be embarking on an exciting and varied programme of study which will inspire you to think about human behaviour in a totally different way; driving you to question rather than take for granted the fascinating intricacies of human nature.

If you choose Psychology as an A level you will study the AQA specification which includes:

#### YEAR 1

##### **Social influence**

What makes us go along with the crowd, even against our better judgement? Under what conditions will we forget our morals in order to obey the orders of a destructive authority?

##### **Memory**

How is memory organised? What causes us to remember some things and forget others? Can our memories actually be trusted?

##### **Attachment**

What factors determine the quality of the bond between babies and their caregivers? What are the long term effects of lacking an early attachment? How do early relationships determine the course of our adult relationships?

##### **Psychopathology**

Is there any such thing as "normal"? How can we apply Psychological theories to explain and treat "abnormal" behaviour such as phobias, depression and OCD?

#### **Approaches in Psychology**

How has the nature of Psychology changed over time from Freud's (very weird!) early theories, to the science it has become today?

#### **Research methods**

How do Psychologists conduct their research, from generating a new hypothesis to using statistics to reveal whether it has been supported?

*"Psychology taught me to be analytical - now I can't stop evaluating things!"*

#### YEAR 2

##### **Biopsychology**

How studying the nervous system allows us to understand behaviour at the most basic level. What is a "body clock"? What can brain damaged patients teach us about our own brains?

##### **Gender**

What causes boys and girls to behave differently? What can cause some people to have a mismatch between their gender identity and physical sex?

##### **Schizophrenia**

What is it like to be totally detached from reality? How can we use Psychological theories to explain the symptoms of schizophrenia, and to improve the quality of life of sufferers?

##### **Aggression**

Does a "murderer's" brain exist? The "Get out of jail free" gene - can DNA be used as a defence for violent behaviour? What role does the media play in triggering aggression?

## Issues and debates in psychology

Are we a product of our genes or environment? Is there any such thing as free will, and if not, is it fair to hold anyone responsible for their actions? Can any Psychological experiment be done if the ends justify the means?

Psychology teaching at NGHS is designed to support and inspire. Teaching techniques include:

- PowerPoints to support the learning outcomes
- Colour coded hand-outs for each lesson
- Topic booklets including revision checklists, exam tips, PPQ & wider reading
- Individual, pair group and whole class activities
- Practical experiments - 'How science works'
- Discussion/debates about key psychological theories and studies
- Exam question practice
- Detailed weekly feedback via personal progress tracker
- **Brain Day** is highly enjoyable day run by Dr Guy Sutton in which you will take part in interactive activities to help you get to know your own brain, experience a series of cutting edge neuroscience lectures, and witness a real brain dissection!
- **Trips** to university conferences presenting lectures as diverse as "The Psychology of Attraction", "Psychology and Dance", "Laughter and the Brain", "Criminology" and much more!
- **Psychology Club** in which we broaden our minds by watching some of the range of excellent Psychology related documentaries such as "The Brain- A Secret History", "The girl who talked to Dolphins" and "Project Nim".
- **The Summer of Psychology** during which you will become a Psychologist, applying all you have learned in order to conduct your own Psychological research!



So diverse is the course that it is guaranteed to complement, and serve to enhance understanding of your other subject choices, whatever they may be.

Many students who choose Psychology as an A level go on to enjoy intellectually stimulating and fulfilling careers. The realm of Psychology based careers is exceptionally broad, from Neuropsychology and Clinical Psychology, to Sports, Educational and Forensic Psychology. However, any career involving working with people will be supported by a knowledge and understanding of Psychology.

*Click here to watch the course introductory video  
from Head of Psychology, Miss Lauren Burns*

---

In order to join us in the Sixth Form, we require an average of grade 6 across eight GCSE subjects, including English and Mathematics. See individual subjects for any specific requirements for study at A Level.

For detailed course information on all of the A Level subjects please visit the AQA, Edexcel or OCR websites.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the admissions process, please call 0115 935 4444 or email [admissions@not.gdst.net](mailto:admissions@not.gdst.net)



Nottingham Girls' High School  
9 Arboretum Street, Nottingham NG1 4JB  
0115 941 7663 [enquiries@not.gdst.net](mailto:enquiries@not.gdst.net)  
[nottinghamgirlshigh.gdst.net](http://nottinghamgirlshigh.gdst.net)



FriendsofNGHS  
@NottmGirlsHigh