



### Why we teach what we teach

Studying sociology gives students the opportunity to delve deeper into society and understand how it functions through critically examining ways of life. It aims to create responsible citizens with awareness of social issues such as inequality, prejudice, and discrimination, and encourage students to lead healthy and happy lives by developing awareness of social issues which they can apply in their own lives.

Sociology provides students with the exciting opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them and reflect on social issues that are often relevant to their own social experiences. It opens up fascinating discussions, for example 'free will versus determined behaviour?', 'how do sociologists investigate inequality in society?' and 'what is the purpose of criminal justice?'. Students not only acquire worldly knowledge but a critical understanding of contemporary society and social changes that impact their own and the lives of millions like them.

<b>Core concepts</b>	Learners will embrace the theories of many key thinkers – Karl Marx; Talcott Parsons; Emile Durkheim; Karl Popper; Max Weber, and Aguste Comte and their impact on our society in terms of the past, present, and future. Learners' comprehension of methodological research, debates about the scientific credibility of sociology and its impressive impact on political policy decisions will be ventured into later in their courses. Being able to study society, its patterns, relationships, culture, and surroundings will help build their understanding of the various methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis that is used to develop a body of knowledge about social order and social change in all their applications.
<b>How our curriculum builds over time</b>	The curriculum at A Level is sequenced logically from building on sociological vocabulary, via an introduction to how sociologists study society and sociological theory, through to A Level topic where students are challenged to debate the relative values of different theoretical perspectives and how sociology can be applied to enable social change. Learners will apply perspectives to inequality and build a conceptual understanding of how and why inequality formulates, for example poverty and the living wage being entwined with issues of moral responsibility and economic limitation.
<b>Key ingredients of a lesson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ A safe environment where success is celebrated, and less confident individuals feel brave enough to 'take a risk' without fear of getting it wrong</li><li>➤ Passionate and enthusiastic teachers who love what they do and enjoy introducing students to breadth of sociological knowledge and understanding</li><li>➤ Students who are inquisitive, eager to learn and enjoy exploring new concepts</li><li>➤ Access to a curriculum that explores a wide range of concepts, processes and contexts</li><li>➤ The opportunity to further and enhance sociological understanding through extra-curricular activity</li><li>➤ Up to date pedagogy, including technology, to deliver the most relevant and engaging lessons at all key stages</li></ul>

<p><b>How we assess the knowledge, understanding and skills of students</b></p>	<p>Knowledge and skills assessments are undertaken on a regular basis with exam style questioning in chunked retrieval mini assessments to develop and cement the skills of examination style responses and content. Independent learning and research tasks are built into homework and research projects that are designed to map across curriculum topic areas to enable students to develop the skills of independent learning where tasks take steps from scaffolded note taking to the development of broader understanding and developed note taking to synthesise their own knowledge with extension materials to ensure understanding of the synoptic elements of the course and make cognitive links between content to extend evaluative and analytical thinking.</p>
<p><b>How we provide cultural capital and extra-curricular opportunities</b></p>	<p>Cultural capital is embedded throughout the Sociology curriculum. Our students are introduced to a wide variety of viewpoints from some of the most influential sociologists throughout history. We study the impact that their work has had on the world we live in and students are encouraged to make links between their studies and real life examples. They are expected to analyse the relative contributions of competing theories to discuss their impact on our understanding of human behaviour and society as a whole.</p>
<p><b>How we provide stretch and challenge enrichment</b></p>	<p>The course is designed and delivered to nurture thoughtful and motivated young people, who can act responsibly as active citizens, and who believe in their ability to change their community for the better. Sociology challenges pupils to look beyond appearances and set aside their own personal beliefs to enable them to grow in compassion and kindness. It empowers pupils with intellectually challenging ideas and concepts and essential skills of critical thinking. We encourage student to make mistakes, and learn from them, so they succeed in being resilient and courageous especially when learning about sensitive and often challenging topical material.</p>
<p><b>How we adapt our curriculum to meet the needs of all students</b></p>	<p>Key to our success in delivering content to students is our forward planning to ensure knowledge is revisited, reviewed within the context of relevant practice questions with regular constructive quality feedback to support student progress. The optional topic choices are designed logically with the ability to revisit and build on existing knowledge with the flexibility to challenge our most able learners yet at the same time providing the scaffolding to those students who need it most.</p>
<p><b>How we link our subject knowledge to the world of work and further study</b></p>	<p>Sociology teachers discuss with their students the possible career destinations which studying sociology can lead to. These include teaching, social and community work, work in the criminal justice system and policing.</p>
<p><b>How we provide personal development for students</b></p>	<p>The aim of the Sociology curriculum is to equip students with appropriate knowledge and skills needed to understand and explain the causes of global human interaction and the impact this has on local community involvement to wider society in terms of all facets – political, legal, educational, cultural, – amongst others. We want learners to be able to think analytically, establishing connections in their learning to ensure logical conclusions are reached in all applied and non-applied contexts. This embeds itself within our life-long learning goal to ensure our learners are inspired and motivated to fulfil their potential no matter what</p>