**Curriculum Information for Psychology**

Psychology sits within the Humanities department at Abbeyfield Sixth Form due to the shared focus on understanding human behaviours, and the shared skills of extended writing and critical analysis. Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour and seeks to explore why we think, feel and behave the way that we do. It is a diverse subject area with wide-ranging applications. The various branches of Psychology enable students to explore human behaviours from a variety of perspectives and to develop knowledge and skills in many different areas, ranging from biology and neuroanatomy to ethical dilemmas and debates. As such, Psychology is a highly regarded qualification for both further education and future employment.

Psychology is an A Level option at Abbeyfield Sixth Form. Students follow the Eduqas Psychology specification. In Year 12, students consider key developments in Psychology across time and explore five major approaches in Psychology: biological, psychodynamic, behaviourist, cognitive, and positive. For each, they consider key ideas and concepts, at least one psychological therapy an important piece of research, a contemporary debate, and broader evaluation. Alongside this, they also consider how research is conducted in Psychology and how to critically assess research. As part of this, they will learn about a variety of research methods, types of data and some statistical analysis. There is a key focus on applying this knowledge and understanding and students need to complete two personal investigations as part of this. These investigations are completed with in-class support and enable students to really put into practice their understanding and to experience the research process themselves.

In Year 13, this focus on application is continued. Students consider how their psychological understanding applies to a number of real-life behaviours, such as schizophrenia, addictions and criminal behaviours. They will consider a range of different explanations and be encouraged to critically assess information. Additionally, students will consider controversies in the field of Psychology, such as cultural bias and the use of animals in research, enabling them to debate ideas and take a synoptic approach to weighing up information and reaching their own conclusions.

The study of Psychology provides a great opportunity for young people to explore human behaviours and to consider issues and debates in the world they live in. It is a popular subject which attracts students with a range of different interests and skills sets. Studying Psychology will help students to develop their critical thinking, research skills, evaluation, and communication whilst also giving them a greater understanding of themselves and others.

**A Level Psychology specification:** Eduqas A290QS A Level