



Watford Grammar School for Girls

Psychology

Department Information

Psychology is an important part of the Social Science Department; a diverse and collaborative Academic Department within the school. Subject specialisms are currently Economics, Psychology and Sociology. The majority of Psychology lessons are taught by one specialist teacher, with two lessons a week being delivered by another member of the department. Currently, the Social Sciences are only offered at KS5.

Most members of the Social Science Department are lead teachers of one of the subject areas, and are responsible for creating schemes of work and assessment for their subject. All colleagues are subject specialists with all or some content of their degree being in the subject they teach and who are able to focus their teaching to meet the needs of different students. Department members are constantly updating their knowledge of developments in their specialism and have developed contacts with subject teachers in other schools. The Department members pride themselves in their organisation and innovation as well as in their subject knowledge and wider pedagogy.

The department has a strong collaborative element, where colleagues work together to support and encourage each other. We have departmental meetings several times a term where we discuss areas of good practice, department focuses, deadlines and matters of shared interest. Although we are individually responsible for different subjects, we have a strong group ethos and make sure that we communicate with one another and all contribute to the smooth running of the department. There is a head of department who oversees all three subjects and supports colleagues in their work.

Psychology is only taught at KS5, and there are three classes in both year 12 and 13 presently, we have 53 students in year 12 and 58 students in year 13. We do offer AS Psychology to students as the Eduqas board has made it co-teachable although few opt for this as most progress to the second year. Students in year 12 are taught for 8 periods of week and in year 13, they are taught for 9 periods.

Results for The Psychology A-Level are outstanding, with 78% of students achieving A*-A last year and 98% gaining A*-B.

One of the main challenges within the department is how to maintain our impressive level of academic rigour with an increasing uptake of students, despite most pupils having never been exposed to our subjects before. Department members have offered online enrichment and catch up sessions during the pandemic and normally would also give a number of enrichment activities and ask our prefects to help communicate the appeal of our subjects to prospective students.

The department is well resourced. There are up-to-date sets of class textbooks for students in y13 and we source this online for year 12 as the school subscribes to Kerboodle by Oxford University Press. Each subject has the option of an annual magazine subscription to the 'Review' series. We have a range of relevant literature in the library. We arrange a range of extra and cross-curricular opportunities including trips and lectures in school by academics and professionals.