WLA Psychology. Vision

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and how this influences our behaviour. Students may study Psychology for a multitude of reasons; to better understand themselves and others or to begin a career in forensic psychology. The course of study examines a range of one-off psychological phenomena to everyday behaviour and discusses their occurrence from the perspective of a number of psychological approaches. Through this, pupils develop their critical thinking, debating and reasoning skills. Pupils will study a range of topics from memory to psychopathology, schizophrenia to addiction. Throughout all topics within the course pupils will deepen their appreciation of research methods, the need for robust scientific support and the implications of the absence of this for conclusions drawn from such research. Some skills that will be developed throughout the course include: the ability to design and conduct research, ethical appreciation, analysing and interpreting data, statistical analysis, discussion and evaluation. Pupils will develop an ability to express themselves fluently, think clearly and logically with independence of thought and flexibility of mind.

Year 13

Use of model answers within lessons stretches students to identify and aim for full mark answers. Small group tutoring offered after/before school. Less use of structured evaluation paragraphs and more open ended questioning and prompts with students with more free rein to express their own academic perspectives. Through issues and debates topic students are stretched to think more widely about society and science, how best to approach the subject and the flaws and advantages to different approaches. Access to A* level papers, independent study of quizzing and exam practise. Use of example work, application questions and debates. Students act on feedback from exams and essays in their feedback book which remains in class. Analysis and improvement work always follows any assessment with students able to identify their weaker topics and skills.

Year 12

Inducting students into year 12 they are encouraged to challenge and push themselves, encourage open discussion and development of points. The first topic is ‘Approaches’ which opens up dialogue about the best way to approach the study of Psychology.

Use of example work, application questions and debates. Students act on feedback from exams and essays in their feedback book which remains in class.

Analysis and improvement work always follows any assessment with students able to identify their weaker topics and skills.