



Queen Mary's College

## FAQs – Psychology

### **Q: What is Psychology?**

**A:** Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and how it dictates and influences our behaviour. Psychologists are interested in a wide range of behaviours and trying to understand what makes us tick! Psychology is such a diverse subject and human behaviour is so complex that often it has more questions than answers. It is an exciting and often challenging subject.

### **Q: What topics will I study?**

**A:** We follow the AQA Specification which has a broad focus in Year 1 and a more applied focus in the 2nd Year. In Year 1 we will look at the topics of attachment (why are relationships between caregivers and babies so important?), social influence (obedience and conformity), psychopathology (what are phobias, OCD and depression? How can we explain their causes and what are possible treatments) and memory (how does our memory work and why we forget). We will also study the methods used by psychologists to carry out their research.

### **Q: What are lessons like?**

**A:** Teachers in the department use a wide range of activities including discussion, group work, more formal style teaching, the use of pre-work and independent learning tasks.

### **Q: What other subjects go well with Psychology at college?**

**A:** Psychology shares many links with other subjects. For example, it overlaps well with sociology and criminology, where we study similar topics but from a different angle. There is also a strong biological component in psychology which suits those students with an interest in other science subjects. Students pursuing art, media and drama have enjoyed being able to draw on their understanding of psychology for their work in these subjects. Maths students will enjoy applying their understanding of statistics in the research methods topic. There are also strong links to PE/Sport Science, Health and Social Care and English Language. Psychology really goes well with so many subjects!

### **Q: What can I do with psychology?**

**A:** Many students at QMC go on to pursue reading Psychology at university, leading to careers in clinical psychology, educational psychology, forensic psychology, sport / exercise psychology and research. Other related careers

include teaching, journalism, accountancy, occupational therapy, mental health nursing, police, legal sector and social work but this list is not exhaustive!

**Q: Are there any trips/enrichment?**

**A:** Yes! The psychology department has run trips to Auschwitz and Vienna successfully for the past 3 years and other visits have included practical research skills at Marwell Zoo. The department also offers a hugely popular Forensic Psychology enrichment.