

“Some subjects merely interpret the world,  
Sociology aims to change it”



### **WHY CHOOSE SOCIOLOGY?**

Are we really free? Why are some people rich and others poor? Do schools manipulate students? Why do men commit more crime than women? Does everyone have an equal chance in life? Are we in control? Why do some people commit crime and others don't? What is 'normal'?

If these questions interest you, and you are interested in discovering the answers, then Sociology is the subject for you. Sociology is the scientific study of society. Sociology looks at social issues and attempts to explain why they exist as well as offering potential solutions to societal problems. Sociologists study a wide range of social topics that range from inequality, racism, sexism, gender and class, to crime, the family, religion, education and the media.

Sociology allows you to look at society from a different angle and challenges any common-sense ideas and explanations the general public puts forward to explain human behaviour. As one famous Sociologist put it 'the function of Sociology is to reveal that which was hidden'.

### **HOW WILL SOCIOLOGY HELP ME? WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?**

Sociology allows you to see the world, and issues within it, from multiple perspectives. Being able to look at anything from different perspectives and being able to draw conclusions from this, is a valuable skill in many areas of social and work life.

In this subject you will consistently analyse theories and theorist's views on the problems within society and look at ways to solve these problems.

Sociology will help you become a more well-rounded member of society and foster your ability to analyse the social world around you, allowing you to make rational, justified conclusions on various issues.

## WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE? WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Sociology is designed to foster an understanding and critical awareness of the social world around you. You will be encouraged to explore and debate contemporary social issues such as Crime, Education, the Family, the Media and class, all of which will enable you to challenge taken-for-granted assumptions and to question your everyday understanding of society and the impact society can have on human behaviour.

### Year 10 Topics (1hr 45mins exam)

**Families** (What do families do? Is there still a “normal” family? Have roles in the family changed?)

**Education** (What are schools for? Who does well in school and why? How have policies changed the education system?)  
Links to research methods for both of these topics

### Year 11 Topics (1hr 45mins exam)

**Crime and Deviance** (Why do people commit crime? Who is it that commits crime? Can we trust the statistics?)

**Social Stratification** (Which groups have more power in society? Is this fair? What are the causes of poverty?)  
Links to research methods for both of these topics

## HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn about Sociology via face to face classroom teaching, student presentations, group work activities, media analysis, explainer videos, engaging homeworks and research projects, to name but a few.

To be a successful sociology student you must:

- ✓ Be willing to express your views in class discussions, debates and presentations.
- ✓ Be able to listen to and respect the views of others.
- ✓ Keep up to date with current issues by reading newspapers, watching TV news or keeping up to date with relevant news online.
- ✓ Be able to summarise research evidence and sociological theories/theorists in your essays and present a clear, two-sided argument which reaches clear conclusions.
- ✓ Keep up to date with the homework that is set each week

Remember that sociology is a purely exam-based subject which requires you to write essays. You will be given clear guides on how to write essays, but please note that an ability to present and express ideas in writing is essential.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Below are the assessment objectives for this specification. You must:

- ✓ AO1 - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods.
- ✓ AO2 - Apply knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods.
- ✓ AO3 - Analyse and evaluate sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods in order to construct arguments, make judgements and draw conclusions.
- ✓ Sociology is a 100% exam-based course.
- ✓ You will sit two exams at the end of year 11. Each exam is 1hr 45mins
- ✓ In order to prepare you for the exam, you will be required to complete essays and shorter exam questions each week.

## HOW CAN I PROGRESS?

Many students who study GCSE Sociology go on to study A level Sociology in the sixth form. It will also help with your study of Psychology, Politics, Media Studies and Philosophy and Ethics. In addition, Sociology is an extremely valued subject for higher education entry and future careers.

Sociology students are particularly in demand for ‘people centred’ occupations and professions that demand an analytical and evaluative approach based upon weighing up evidence and arguments to reach considered conclusions.

Hence sociology students have gone on to careers as wide ranging as media research, law, police, journalism, teaching, social and welfare work, personnel work, business analysts, civil service and local government research and policy making, advertising, nursing, medicine, market research, criminal law, probation service, criminal justice service, counselling, criminology, mentor, child welfare, journalism, social work, social services, youth services, public relations, management, advertising, human resources, business management, data handling, statistician, personnel manager, editor, charity work, human rights work.