



# NOWER HILL HIGH SCHOOL



## PSYCHOLOGY A LEVEL - EDEXCEL

### Who is the course for?

Psychology is the fascinating scientific study of behaviour. You will study how people interact; how we change and develop, how we think, how the nervous system works, how we differ from animals and how we decide what is normal.

Although a wide variety of sources can provide insights into psychological characteristics (including media, novels and films) Psychology is a scientific subject. You will, therefore, be required to appreciate the role of systematic quantitative and qualitative studies planned to test psychological theories and also carry out appropriate mathematical calculations. You will also need to have the ability to synthesise and critically evaluate written evidence, to demonstrate transferable skills and to acquire competencies in research.

### What can it lead to?

This qualification can lead to a range of careers and higher education courses in Psychology, Social Sciences, and Neuroscience, media studies, social work, clinical or educational psychology, research and teaching. It can also help gain entry to employment in the social or related sectors.

### What are the entry requirements?

You are not required to have studied Psychology in advance, but if you studied Psychology as a GCSE subject, you must have achieved Grade 5 or above.

### What will I study?

In Year 12 you will study: **Biological Psychology**: neurons, aggression and the structure of the brain; **Cognitive Psychology**: human memory, thinking & processing and eye witness testimony; **Social Psychology**: obedience, prejudice and football hooliganism and in the **Learning approach**: conditioning, phobias and Depression

In Year 13 you will study aspects of Applied Psychology such as Criminal Psychology and Clinical Psychology, as well as looking at Psychology synoptically in a section called 'Issues and Debates'.

### How will I be taught?

You will be taught proactively through lessons, discussions, presentations, classwork and small group work. As the course develops, you will be increasingly expected to work independently to identify appropriate studies in Psychological literature and to develop and test your own ideas.

Homework: 5 hours. The work will include short answer questions, data handling exercises, mathematical calculations, statistical tests, experimental write ups and reading. You will also be given regular past exam papers to complete.

### How will I be assessed?

Exams 100%

Paper 1: Foundations in Psychology  
Paper 2: Applications of Psychology  
Paper 3: Psychological Skills

#### Dates of Assessment

June

### What equipment or materials do I need?

You should expect to provide yourself with all standard stationery, writing materials, a textbook and folders.

### Are there any links to other courses?

This course provides links to other courses, in particular Biology and Mathematics.