



# St Philomena's

## Catholic High School for Girls

### ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

#### SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

Psychology exists within the Social Sciences Department with specialist teachers of Politics, Sociology and Psychology and is based in a modern suite of Social Science rooms. Each room is equipped with an overhead projector and all staff have their own computer. We are a small but friendly team of specialists and welcome applicants with a passion for their subject, and a desire to help all students reach their true potential. Our results are regularly among the very best in the school, are far higher than national average, and staff are encouraged to become examiners and engage with subject specialists from other schools to build expertise. We regularly work with other specialist Key Stage 5 subjects such as Economics, History and Business Studies to develop good practice within the Sixth Form.

We are committed to helping all students become confident psychologists, able to analyse and critically assess subject specific debates, research and evidence and to see the interplay between the approaches within the discipline. Students very often go on to study Psychology and Psychology-related degrees at top universities.

The syllabus we follow is AQA Psychology. The unit three options taught are: Addiction, Eating behaviour and Relationships. It is a very successful, popular and expanding A Level subject. There are currently three teaching groups studying AS Psychology and three groups at A2.

The Psychology department achieves outstanding results:

	2014	2015	2016
<b>A2 - number of students</b>	40	41	45
A2 % of grades A* to A	40%	27%	27%
A2 - % of grades at A* to B	63%	49%	62%
A2 - % of grades at A* to E	100%	100%	100%
Number of U grades	0	0	0
<b>A2 - ALPS Grade</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>AS - number of students</b>	58	52	41
AS - % of grades at A to B	36%	58%	63%
AS - % of grades at A to E	95%	100%	98%
Number of U grades	1	0	1
<b>AS - ALPS Grade</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

Psychology is a well-resourced departments, needing a specialist who constantly reviews practice to refine and enrich their teaching. We are committed to the promotion of extra-curricular activities and opportunities. Whenever possible students are directed towards furthering independent learning, and may attend lectures at Gresham College or, more recently, the Plug in Your Brain series at Westminster University. We also run

study visits which have involved trips to Parliament, lectures on key ideas, revision conferences, and even performances of at the theatre or cinema if appropriate.

The person appointed would join a lively, friendly and committed team of specialists who have a passion for their subjects and who share ideas on how we can develop the best from all our students. S/he would join the department as a welcomed and valued member of this team and would have an exciting opportunity to enhance and develop the work of this successful department.

There is the opportunity to study on site for a part funded Masters in Leadership and Innovation. This is heavily subsidised by the school.