

# *The Cherwell School*

## *RS/PSHCE and Social Sciences Faculty*

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The Cherwell School RS/PSHCE and Social Sciences Faculty is a dynamic and highly regarded team of twelve teachers. We offer a range of exciting curriculum programmes from KS3-5. Subjects taught within this diverse faculty include Religious Studies, Citizenship, Social Wellbeing (PSHE), Sociology, Health & Social Care and Psychology. The Faculty Leader is supported by three TLR post holders: the Subject Leader for Philosophy & Ethics, KS3 RS and PSHE Leader and Subject Leader for Psychology and Health & Social Care.

Across GCSE and A level subjects, students have a range of trips and visiting speakers to enhance their learning. The faculty values opportunities where students can engage in genuine interactions between people and adopts both an open and questioning approach to learning. Students develop a wide range of academic and personal skills. The faculty regularly reports very pleasing grades at both GCSE and A level.

Every year we have a number of PGCE trainees within the faculty and take our commitment to ITT and CPD seriously. The members of the faculty work in a highly collaborative manner and sharing good practice is embedded within all of our work. Staff enjoy being a part of the faculty and students and their families regard it highly and respond very positively to what we do.



### Courses Offered

#### GCSEs

- AQA Citizenship Studies (Core GCSE for all students between Year 9 & 10)
- AQA Religious Studies, Philosophy & Ethics
- OCR Sociology (AQA from Sept 2017)
- AQA Health and Social Care (OCR Cambridge National from Sept 2017)

#### A Levels

- OCR Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics
- OCR Sociology
- AQA Psychology

#### Religious Studies

Our curriculum is developed in accordance with the Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus but bespoke to our School. It includes a range of stimulating and challenging topic areas as well as a focus on developing thoughtful, analytical, critical and philosophically minded young people.

#### Social Wellbeing (PSHE)

Students in year 7 and 8 receive 1-2 hours per fortnight to learn about and explore issues linked to friendships, safety, managing risk, sex and relationships, drugs/alcohol and smoking, the development of teenagers, mental health, and the world of work. Social Wellbeing lessons are provided to students after completion of the GCSE Citizenship course and through other enrichment opportunities. Additionally, we now offer a comprehensive social wellbeing programme to the whole Year 12 Cohort, which includes similar issues to those above and also a wide variety of guest speakers and talks from our own staff body.

## Philosophy and Ethics

Philosophy, Ethics & Religious Studies provides students with an exciting opportunity to explore the bigger questions and issues we face in life. We enable our students to investigate and develop a sound knowledge of people with different philosophical, religious and cultural perspectives and beliefs. We focus on developing research and analytical skills, in order to promote high quality reasoning. A particular strength of the GCSE course is that every student is given the choice of which world religion they study in order to maximise student engagement.

## Citizenship

In year 9, students embark on their first core GCSE in Citizenship Studies. A key element of this course is the focus on active citizenship. Students participate in an Advocacy Fair. They also have the opportunity to volunteer their time in a range of ways for issues that they are passionate about. Students learn about a range of contemporary issues such as human rights, the criminal justice system, immigration, politics, sustainable development, economy, and many others.

## Sociology

Students enjoy learning about a range of contemporary and highly relevant topics in order to understand society better. With concepts such as identity, socialisation and culture at its heart, students analyse issues such as why people commit crime, what the role of education is, why people join gangs and what agents of control affect the behaviour of young people. With a focus on understanding and evaluating the research methods sociologists use, students are developing a more sophisticated understanding of the nature of society. At A Level students study a range of theories and apply these to issues such as education, family and gender equality.



## Health and Social Care

This subject provides students with the opportunity to examine service provision within both the Health and Social Care sectors. Students have the chance to create a portfolio based on the needs of their chosen client and as a result develop an understanding of how these needs can be met by the various service providers. Students also study development across the life stages by examining physical, intellectual, emotional and social needs as well as how these are affected by expected and unexpected life events.



## Psychology

By studying Psychology students are able to scientifically examine the mind and human behaviours. Students study a range of topics including memory, attachment, social influence and psychopathology. Students initially investigate the main approaches within Psychology and then seek to apply these approaches to behaviours such as obedience and aggression. A key component of the Psychology course is a sound understanding of research methods psychologists use in order to examine human behaviour.

### Other enrichment Opportunities linked to the faculty:

- Yr 7 Experiencing Religion in Oxford
- Bar Mock Trials
- BBC School Report
- Amnesty International Group
- Cherwell Gay straight Alliance group (CGSA)