



# St Philomena's

## Catholic High School for Girls

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

#### SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

Psychology and Sociology exist 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 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 partnered schools to build expertise. We regularly work with other specialist Key Stage 5 subjects such as Economics and Business Studies to develop good practice within the Sixth Form.

We are committed to helping all students become confident social scientists, able to analyse and critically assess subject specific debates, research and evidence and to see the interplay between the three separate disciplines. Students commonly take either Sociology and Politics or Sociology and Psychology and go on to study related degrees at top universities.

The syllabus we follow in Psychology and Sociology is AQA. The topics taught in Sociology are: Work, Poverty and Welfare, Education and Research Methods, Crime and Deviance and Beliefs in Society. In Psychology we are teaching all the compulsory topics for Papers 1, 2 and 3. The options we have chosen for Paper 3 are Relationships, Aggression and Schizophrenia. Both subjects are very successful, popular and expanding A Level courses. This year we started to offer AS Sociology to KS4 students. Currently there are 5 groups in Psychology and 5 in Sociology, two teaching groups study A Level Sociology, one study AS Sociology and three study A Level Psychology. There are currently 66 pupils studying Sociology and 60 studying Psychology. Numbers are likely to increase next year.

The results in both Psychology and Sociology are substantially above national average:

Sociology	% A*-A	% A -B	% A-E
2015	46%	87%	100%
2016	50%	80%	100%
2017	19%	61%	100%
2018	n/a	30%	100%

<b>Psychology</b>	<b>% A*-A</b>	<b>% A -B</b>	<b>% A-E</b>
2015	27%	49%	100%
2016	27%	62%	100%
2017	32%	59%	100%
2018	25%	53%	100%

Social Sciences is a well-resourced department, with specialists who constantly review practice to refine and enrich their teaching. The department follows the Sixth Form Team's Assessment for Learning Policy which forms the basis for developing students' skills and ensures that they are fully prepared to meet the requirements of the exams.

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 various London Universities. We also invite guest speakers who lecture these subjects to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

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.