**SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

The Social Science Department sets out to develop the intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual identity of every learner so that they are able to play a vital role both within school and also the wider community.

The curriculum within the department aims to create:

* Successful learners who demonstrate a passion for learning and a desire to become academic scholars
* Compassionate learners who display empathy and also care and concern for those around them
* Responsible learners who actively contribute across the school and within the wider community

The Social Science curriculum is strategically designed around three key areas; knowledge, talents and gifts which collectively provide the foundations to secure progress over time.

As teachers our mission is to build talents, attitudes and values within our students, to support them throughout their lives and also in their future roles. In addition, we seek to develop a love of learning across all subject areas and enthuse students to continue their study of Sociology, Psychology and Health and Social Care at Post-16.

**Curriculum**

**Key Stage 3/4**

GCSE Sociology and BTEC Health and Social Care are offered from Year 9 and are both popular subjects amongst pupils. GCSE Sociology was introduced at the beginning of the 2017/18 academic year and follows the new AQA specification. The topics studied within the GCSE Sociology course are Families and Households, Education, Crime and Deviance, Social Stratification and Sociological Theory.

In addition, pupils also have the option to study BTEC Health and Social Care which allows them an opportunity to develop an understanding of the health care sector. There are three components within this course which cover Human Lifespan and Development and Health and Wellbeing. Progress within BTEC courses has been outstanding within St. Paul’s over time.

**Key Stage 5**

A-level Sociology and Psychology are offered at Post-16 and have both been very popular and successful courses over recent years with each subject recruiting between 40-50 students per year group. Sociology and Psychology both follow AQA A-level specifications.

Alongside Sociology and Psychology, the department offer BTEC Health and Social Care which is also a very popular subject amongst students. We offer both the Extended Certificate and Diploma to students with both qualifications following the Edexcel specification.

Since September 2019 the Social Science department have also offered Post-16 students the opportunity to study Criminology following the WJEC specification. This exciting opportunity has seen string recruitment for this academic year.

**Department Overview**

The Social Science Department consists of four members of staff who each have specialisms in one of the subject areas which are offered. Teachers from the PE department also contribute towards the successful delivery of the BTEC Health and Social Care programmes.

We have three specialist teaching rooms which are split across each subject area and house a range of resources to support teaching and learning. All teaching rooms have interactive whiteboards, wireless laptops and Google Chromebooks. In addition, all new specifications have both print and electronic textbooks which pupils can use within and away from the classroom to promote independent learning.

Our classes often include a diverse mix of ability. As practitioners we therefore develop lessons which challenge all and support students of all abilities. We constantly reflect upon our practice and adapt our pedagogy and curriculum to meet emerging needs and to develop further. As members of a thriving department we enjoy working in collaboration to establish a house style for teaching and learning. Weekly department meetings and frequent CPD opportunities allow us to work as a close team, sharing ideas and outstanding practice, contributing to decision-making in the department and supporting each other as necessary. We value our strong working relationships and use these to drive progress.

Student learning and achievement is vital to the success of the department. We have built together a department where success is an expectation and standards are set high. We pride ourselves on excellent work and the variety of experiences available to the students ensures that we can meet many needs.