# Social Sciences

Spalding High School

Department on a page

**The Department**

The social science department at Spalding High School is a thriving one. It offers the well-established subjects of Psychology and Sociology with more recent additions since 2019 of Criminology and Law. Social science subjects are taught from year 12 and the department enjoys a high level of recruitment as one of the most popular departments in the sixth form. Across year 12 and 13 around 80 students study Psychology in 4 groups, 30 study Sociology in 2 groups, 40 study Law in 3 groups and around 25 study Criminology in 2 groups.

We are a team of experienced teachers who are specialists in the subjects we teach. Miss Dunbar is Head of Department and teaches both Sociology and Criminology. Mr Love is SLT in charge of teaching and learning and teaches Law and Miss Rossouw teaches both Psychology and Criminology.

**The subjects**

**A Level Sociology**

The department follows the OCR specification with 3 main components; socialisation, culture and identity, researching and understanding inequalities and debates in contemporary society. Students study optional topics of family and relationships and crime and deviance. The students sit 3 exam papers at the end of year 13. The course allows students to develop a critical understanding of contemporary social processes and changes and the ability to analyse and formulate clear, logical arguments with scope for extensive evaluation from a range of theoretical perspectives.

**A Level Psychology**

The department follows the AQA specification with 3 main components; introductory topics in psychology, psychology in context and issues and options in psychology. Students study optional topics of cognition and development, schizophrenia and forensic psychology. The students sit 3 exam papers at the end of year 13. The course allows students to develop critical and independent thinking and research skills and to apply psychology to everyday life.

**A Level Law**

The department follows the AQA specification for law which includes the nature of law and the English legal system, criminal law and tort as well as human rights. The students sit 3 exam papers at the end of year 13. Studying Law gives students an understanding of the role of law in today's society and raises their awareness of the rights and responsibilities of individuals. By learning about legal rules and how and why they apply to real life, students also develop their analytical ability, decision making, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

**Diploma in Criminology**

The department follows the WJEC specification for Criminology which includes the changing awareness of crime, criminological theories, crime scene to court room and crime and punishment. They sit a controlled assessment and external exam in Year 12 and a further controlled assessment

and external exam in Year 13. Studying criminology will develop understanding of why some crimes are unreported and why people commit crime. They will develop skills needed to examine and review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases and evaluate the effectiveness of social control to deliver criminal justice policy. The course has an applied purpose and focus on authentic case studies.

**Curriculum intent**

The social science team aim to nurture and further inspire our students' curiosity about the world, society and human behaviour. We are a team committed to spreading the enjoyment of social sciences and encourage students to engage with contemporary issues and social problems. We want our students to be able to make informed judgements about the society in which they live, hope to develop their respect for diversity, equality and justice and to raise their awareness of the rights and responsibilities of individuals.

We aim to provide our learners with a broad, engaging and effective introduction into the subjects to facilitate progression into higher education or careers in Social Science or related fields. The Social Science curriculum will also provide learners with skills valued by both higher education providers and employers such as critical thinking, independent learning and communication skills. Decisions about course content are guided by typical progression routes of our previous learners alongside areas of expertise amongst the teaching team so that we can truly inspire our social scientists. We encourage our students to set themselves high aspirational targets and we stretch all our students to achieve their personal best.

Each year we recruit around 6 to 8 social science prefects who are involved in various activities to promote the subjects to students in Year 10 and 11. They also support and mentor year 12 social science students and have set up a variety of social science revision groups and clubs to support their peers and extend their learning.

Students enjoy a friendly, supportive and stimulating environment where the love of social science deepens.