

# SOCIOLOGY

## WHY CHOOSE SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is a vibrant, energetic department which attracts a number of students who are interested in a wide range of careers. Students are motivated and are keen to study sociological theory alongside real social issues. Sociology is the study of how society is organised and how life is experienced by different groups in society. It will not provide you with quick answers, but it will provide you with the tools and information to question things that you already take for granted in modern society and analyse the world in new ways. It is a fascinating and highly interesting academic subject.

## COURSE DETAILS

### WE FOLLOW THE AQA EXAMINATION BOARD IN SOCIOLOGY.

In Lower Sixth Form you will study Education, Education in Context, Research Methods and Families and Households.

#### EDUCATION:

- Relationships and processes within schools particularly, teacher/pupil relationships and how this influences achievement
- Differential educational achievement by social class, gender and ethnicity
- Functions of the education system and social policies

#### FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS:

- Changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce and the diversity of household structures
- Gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family
- The nature of childhood and changes in the status of children
- Child abuse and domestic violence

#### RESEARCH METHODS:

- Quantitative and qualitative data
- Interviews, questionnaires, observations, experiments, documents and official statistics
- Positivism and interpretivism
- Practical, ethical and theoretical issues which affects the choice of research method

In Upper Sixth Form you will study Education with Theory and Methods, Families and Households, Beliefs in Society and Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods.

#### BELIEFS IN SOCIETY:

- Religion and social change
- Cults and spiritual organisations
- Religious fundamentalism
- The role of women within religion

#### CRIME AND DEVIANCE:

- The social distribution of crime by ethnicity, age, gender and social class
- Social control, the role of the police, courts and prisons,
- The media and crime
- Crime prevention, rehabilitation and victims
- Specific criminal cases
- Causes and explanations of crime

#### THEORY AND METHODS:

- Quantitative and qualitative methods used by sociologists
- Primary and secondary data
- Practical, ethical and theoretical factors affecting research
- Major sociological theories

## CAREER OPTIONS

Sociology is a fantastic subject for anyone wishing to work with people. It is studying what is going on in the 'real world' and shows that you have a sound awareness of what is going on in wider society and the issues which affect other people. It is highly respected by universities and employers.

People who have studied Sociology previously have embarked on careers in teaching, management, law, the police, HR, recruitment, business and the media to name but a few!

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are no set requirements to study Sociology at A Level. Although a Level 6 at GCSE English might be an advantage.

## RELATED SUBJECTS

Sociology relates well to Psychology and Religious Studies.

## TRIPS AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Within the course you will be able to visit a Magistrates Court to sit and watch some family law cases and then you will go to Preston Crown Court, Police Headquarters and Preston Police Station. We also try to go to Kirkham Prison. This enables you to see the sociological theory you study put into practice.

We are also very lucky to have lots of outside speakers who come to the lessons to add their expertise, particularly when studying the crime module.

