



### *What is the level of course I will take?*

Level 3—A Level Psychology (OCR)

### *Course Content*

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour and the mind. It looks to examine the way that people think, feel and behave in a systematic way by reviewing scientific research into aspects of behaviour and designing, conducting and analysing our own investigations.

The course is divided into three units:

- ◆ Research methods—introduces psychological research methods where students are required to design and conduct their own research, analyse their data and draw conclusions.
- ◆ Psychological themes through core studies—introduces 20 key themes and core studies in psychology. The inclusion of both classic and contemporary studies enable students to see the way that psychological knowledge and understanding changes over time.
- ◆ Applied psychology—introduces a new and engaging compulsory section on issues in mental health and an exciting range of options including child psychology and criminal psychology, allowing students to gain an insight into how theory can be applied in real world situations.

### *How will I be assessed?*

There will be three two hours exams to be taken at the end of the course in June 2022 —one for each of the three units: Research methods (30%), Psychological Issues through the key studies (35%) and Applied Psychology (35%). You will be examined using a range of assessment techniques including multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended written pieces.

### *Topics to be covered*

Core studies—cognitive psychology (memory and attention), developmental psychology (external influences and morality), physiological psychology (regions of the brain and brain plasticity), individual differences (understanding disorders and measuring differences) and social psychology (responses to authority figures and factors influencing helping). Biological, cognitive and social explanations of crime and child development. Issues in mental health— diagnosing abnormality, theories of abnormality and treating disorders.

### *Further Information*

You will learn using a variety of teaching and learning methods including presentations, group-work, role-play, posters, debates and discussions. However, Psychology is a very theoretical subject so there is lots of reading and writing involved too. Often, this is done independently, both in class and at home, and you are assessed regularly to check learning. In addition, there are opportunities to engage in enrichment activities such as the Mental Health Peer Mentoring programme, Emotion Coaching and educational visits, including watching a real life trial or sentencing hearing at Manchester Crown Court and a fun, interactive visit to Shrewsbury's 'Dana' Jail.

### *How will the course help me after Sixth Form?*

Psychology is invaluable in helping us understand people and their behaviour since we all have to deal with other people in some capacity, no matter what career we have in mind. Many students choose to study for a degree in Psychology at university with a view to undertaking post-graduate study and career opportunities in fields such as Clinical, Child, Sports and Forensic Psychology..