



CURRICULUM INTENT

Psychology & Sociology

- **Challenge** lies at the heart of our curriculum. It goes beyond what is statutory or typical; students are encouraged to deepen their understanding of the fundamentals of their learning at every opportunity.
- Our curriculum is fully **inclusive**. All students have access to a broad range of experiences for as long as possible, regardless of prior attainment or additional needs.
- Our curriculum is **knowledge rich**, with subject curricula designed to ensure that any 'powerful' knowledge and skills that are critical to future success are regularly re-visited.
- Our curriculum is **expertly planned** and is therefore sequenced to enable students to build their knowledge and skills towards ambitious agreed end points.
- Wherever appropriate our curriculum gives students the opportunity to **personalise** their experience, thereby facilitating enjoyment and success for all.
- The importance of reading and wider literacy skills is a key thread that runs through our curriculum. As well as broadening students' vocabulary, all subjects will develop students' subject-specific literacy, so they can speak, read and write as, for example, a Historian, an Artist or a Physicist.
- A carefully considered and inclusive **extra-curricular** programme supports broader and deeper understanding of the taught curriculum, as well as developing the cultural capital our young people need to be global citizens.
- Students' **personal development**, including careers education, is central to our curriculum, through all subject areas, as well as PSHE lessons, tutor time, assemblies and off-timetable activities.
- Homework and summative **assessment** tasks are strategically designed to promote the concepts of regular review and spaced practice, therefore contributing to a long-term retention of knowledge and skills.

The Social Sciences at Marling School strive to provide students with a variety of opportunities to develop their personal understanding of the world around them, whilst strengthening their academic abilities. When students take up a social science course, whether at GCSE or A level, the curriculum is designed to build upon core skills and content from previous learning in subjects like English, Maths or Science, whilst introducing them to a broad range of new concepts. The courses provide challenge from the start and throughout, by engaging students with a broad range of topics that won't have been seen in their previous studies. The course includes statutory topics such as Memory in Psychology and Education in Sociology, but also takes advantage of optional topics such as Forensic Psychology and Global Development to allow students to experience very focused and specialist fields with the subjects. The quality of teacher specialism allows students to personalise their course further through the choice of individual topics where this is appropriate.

Social sciences are both knowledge rich subjects and so the curriculum is carefully designed to support and challenge a full range of abilities as they embark on their new subject. Content is structured to allow students to be introduced to key principles, before seeing them in greater detail in future topics. The use of scaffolding and support allows all students to successfully begin their journey towards achieving their ambitious end points. Assessments take a variety of forms throughout the courses, allowing students to develop their understanding of their own learning. A variety of in class and homework tasks allow students to receive valuable feedback from teachers and peers, in a variety of written or verbal forms. Curriculum time is given to students to develop their understanding of how the subjects are assessed and use this to strengthen their own writing.

As well as discovering new ideas, the Social Sciences department expects students to communicate scientifically. Students are introduced to specialist terminology, experience their teachers modelling this language in the classroom and are supported in making this part of their day-to-day Psychological or Sociological writing.

Many aspects of the curriculum make links to future steps, such as the further study of the subject in higher education, or potential careers routes. Social science aims to inspire students to desire to continue their studies beyond their A level and provides a variety of extra-curricular opportunities to achieve this. Students are encouraged to engage in projects, trips and wider reading that take them beyond the syllabus and further develop their understanding and excitement of the subject.