

The Bishop’s Stortford High school

Sociology Department Profile.

**Resources**

A Level Sociology is a popular option at TBSHS. The Sociology department is devoted to fostering and developing enquiring minds, critical thinking, creativity and analytic skills in students. Our students are driven by the quest to acquire knowledge and understanding of a range of important sociological issues through close examination of four key areas: Education, Crime and Deviance, The Family and Households and Beliefs in Society. The department aims to model good practice by engaging with challenging and relevant sociological issues within the media as part of our everyday practice, encouraging students to engage with current affairs provoking discussions around equality, diversity and our justice system.

We are committed to delivering a broad but detailed programme of study and enrichment programmes, that will help learners develop an appreciation and critical understanding of the society they belong to and their role both historically and currently including fostering links between; society, culture, psychology, religion and politics. We look at our position in Global Society and explore concepts that have evolved and changed through history due to international links. Our students will be able to identify, define and evaluate sociological; theories, concepts and studies, and the impact these have on our understanding of society. As such, they will be able to make informed arguments, reach substantiated judgements and draw conclusions about sociological issues that have a direct impact on their lives.

Sociological theories are vital components and students learn quickly how to evaluate at KS5. We introduce these through the topics of Education and The Family in the first instance, allowing them to relate to theoretical perspectives on a personal level. Students study the different methods of conducting sociological research and take a critical view on the practicality, ethical considerations and theoretical standing of each method.

The Sociology department is currently exploring trips to Auschwitz, the Jack the Ripper Tour and the Museum of Childhood. We have already hosted ‘ask the expert’ sessions to allow students to gain an insight into the considerations in Education from an alternative perspective.

**Staff**

There are currently two members of teaching staff within the Sociology department.

**Curriculum**

At KS5 the Sociology Department follows the AQA syllabus and currently teaches Family and Households and Beliefs in Society as the optional Paper 2 topics. Sociology is embryonic in nature at this school. We have our first cohort of students currently studying in Year 12, the course was oversubscribed last year and we have a full class of 25 pupils.