

A Level Sociology was introduced at Waddesdon in 2017. It has become a popular choice at A level with healthy class sizes. We currently have 26 Year 1 students and 24 Year 2 students in one group per year with the intention of expanding to include Sociology in a second option block from September 2022. The teaching is shared between two teachers who take on different topics within the course as well as teaching across others.

The aim of Sociology is to provide students with the fundamental skills and knowledge that are valued by higher education and employers including critical analysis, independent thinking and application. Students are attracted to Sociology because it is a new subject which they find fascinating and different. They also enjoy the opportunity to draw upon their own experiences for example within the institution of the Family or Education and apply this experience of the theories taught within lessons. Many show a particular interest in the topic of Crime and Deviance which has inspired a number of A level students to apply to study Criminology at University this year.

All Year 12 students are enrolled on our two year A level course and take exams in May/June of the second year. Students are also expected to complete topic mini-tests at the end of each topic as well as class-based assessments in November (Year 1) and mock exams in January (Year 2) and the summer (Year 1).

The students find Sociology challenging at the beginning of the course because the topics are new and the vocabulary

and concepts can be difficult for them to understand. However, students begin to develop a 'Sociological View' of the world around them and through support with their written work and activities that require them to apply their understanding to contemporary society, their understanding goes from strength to strength.

Some topics taught on the course are governed by the specification including education with methods in context, theory and methods and crime and deviance. Students are also taught options such as Families and Households and Media. Students learn to apply their understanding from the perspectives in Sociology and differing sociological concepts to the topic areas.

The topic areas that have been chosen aim to encourage students to develop an understanding of different social groups such as gender, ethnicity and social classes within institutions that they are familiar with. The intent is for students to develop compassion towards these differing groups in society, encourage understanding through critical analysis and evaluation of theories.

Sociology is a fun and interesting subject to teach. The department teaches a dynamic and engaging curriculum that meets the needs of students and creates well-rounded and curious citizens who critically understand our ever-changing society.

May 2022



SOCIOLOGY AT WADDESDON