



The Social Science Faculty is responsible for teaching courses in Law, Psychology, Sociology, Business and Finance Education.

At Key Stage 4, we offer GCSE Business Studies and GCSE Sociology. Our Key Stage 5 provision consists of a range of AS and A level subjects. The faculty is based in the Sixth Form Centre and has grown rapidly since its creation in 2005. There are 10 staff at varying stages of their teaching careers, and with a wide range of experience. The Head of Faculty, the Leader of Law and the Leader of Business and Finance Education provide leadership for this enthusiastic and high performing faculty.

We have provided brief details of our courses below to give you a flavour of our provision.

Law

Offered at AS and A2 level, following the OCR specification and focusing on Criminal Law, Contract Law and The nature of Law at A2. We currently have five Post 16 groups. Law has been taught successfully at the school for many years. Students embarking on the AS course typically have no previous experience of the subject: there is a steep learning curve and students are often highly motivated. We try to make the subject come to life, making use of topical cases and issues. We regularly visit Parliament and the Law courts and have guest speakers such as Magistrates to enhance the curriculum.

Psychology

Offered at AS and A2 level, following the OCR specification focusing on Issues in Mental Health and the applied options of Child and Criminal Psychology at A2. We currently have nine post 16 groups. Students generally take psychology as a new start subject and many go on to study it at a higher level. In teaching psychology, we make extensive use of audio-visual clips, discussion, practical activities and relevant examples from the news.

Sociology

We offer Sociology at GCSE and at AS and A level. In Key Stage 4 we follow the EDUQAS (9-1) specification and currently have five groups across the Key Stage. At Key Stage 5 we follow the AQA Specification in Sociology. At AS level we study the Families and Household topic, followed by Education and Research Methods. At A2 students explore the topic of Theory and Methods and Crime and Deviance and Beliefs in Society. We currently have five post-16 groups. Whilst we have good retention from GCSE to A Level, many students in Key Stage 5 take Sociology as a new start subject making rapid progress, as they discover new aspects of society. Students show high levels of enthusiasm and motivation. In teaching Sociology, we make use of a wide range of teaching methods taking into consideration all learning styles. This includes the use of discussion, audio-visual aids, games to enhance learning, relevant and current issues in the news and mini-research/presentation projects.



Business Studies

We offer Business Studies at GCSE and AS and A level. Students opting for our business courses often do so because it is something different and offers an interesting alternative to their previous educational experiences. KS4 follow the Edexcel GCSE Business Studies course. This is a popular choice and will be taught to 4 classes next year. At AS and A level we follow the AQA Business specification which will be taught to 3 classes. In teaching Business, we make use of a wide range of teaching methods taking into consideration all learning styles. This includes the use of discussion, audio-visual aids, and games to enhance learning, relevant and current issues in the news and mini research/presentation projects.

Financial Education (CEFS)

The faculty offers students in the sixth form the opportunity to gain an extra qualification in financial education, suitable for following, for example, careers in banking or accounting. This is currently offered as an enrichment activity alongside their other subject choices. This offer has rapidly increased in uptake over the past three years with students successfully using this qualification to enhance their UCAS/apprenticeship/employment applications.

General information

The majority of our current staff teach across at least two subject areas within the faculty. We have a strong ethos for sharing good practice and a good focus on collaboration to develop teaching and learning across the faculty. Results across all subjects within the faculty are consistently good/outstanding, with high levels of student retention and a large number of students opting to continue to study social science subjects at University.