



PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The psychology department makes a considerable contribution to the success of the sixth form. Since the sixth form opened in 1998, psychology has grown significantly; we currently teach 84 students in four groups in Year 12 and 46 students in three groups in Year 13 in mixed ability groups.

The psychology department comprises two full-time specialist subject teachers. We are a small but extremely enthusiastic team and we are fortunate to teach students who have a keen interest in the subject.

The department teaches the AQA specification and have worked hard to build a bank of resources to facilitate the successful teaching of this syllabus. There is no coursework element; the course is purely exam based, so the focus on evaluation and analysis is pivotal to our teaching to develop important exam skills. Students are encouraged to read around the subject and work independently to develop both their subject knowledge and their written communication skills. They are also encouraged to design and carry out their own independent research studies in order to put their learning into practice. Psychology is seen by students as an exciting and interesting subject; many of our students opt to continue their study of Psychology at degree level, the majority at Russell Group universities.

The department moved into purpose-built accommodation in September 2012. The Pavilion building has provided an excellent environment for the students in which to learn and is the envy of many staff in the school! There are two classrooms and an office space which can be used during non-contact times. Each classroom hosts 6 computer terminals, connected to the school network. In addition, all students are provided with necessary access to online textbooks, and we have paper copies in the department, alongside other supplementary materials. Students are well motivated, keen to learn and have a great deal of support from their teachers.

I wish you luck in your application. Please contact me if you have any questions, either by phone or at cjt@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Mrs Caroline Timpson
Head of Psychology

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