

Sociology

Statement of Intent

At Raynes Park, Sociology gives our students the opportunity and skills to think critically about the structures within society, both in the UK and globally, including their impact on various social groups. Through the exploration of sociology's core themes; socialisation, culture, identity, social differentiation, power and stratification, our students are encouraged to challenge their pre-existing beliefs and assumptions. Our students will study sociological theory which will enable them to understand and explain social trends and how society functions. Through the topic areas Education, Families and Households, Beliefs in Society, Crime and Deviance and Research Methods, they will develop broad knowledge of the society around them. Supporting the school and sixth form ethos of respect, resilience and results, this will also enable students to develop their understanding of the personal identities of themselves and others.

Key Stage 5 Curriculum

Students will study the AQA A-Level Sociology specification and over the two-year course they will study Education with Theory and Methods, Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods, Families and Households and Beliefs in Society. They will be externally assessed through three 2-hour exam papers at the end of the two-year course.

Extended Learning

What we offer to extend the learning of our students?

Students in KS5 will be given an extended reading list with newspaper articles, academic literature and non-fiction/fiction books. This list links directly to the AQA specification but also encourages students to explore sociology beyond the curriculum. These readings contain topical issues and encourage students to think about the implications of sociology on contemporary society. Students should also be encouraged to keep up with news weekly and use these contemporary examples in their answers. Parents/carers can encourage discussion of current affairs as debating is a common theme in lesson time.

Students in KS5, within their tutor programme and supervised study students are provided with and have the opportunity to access additional resources, where students will be guided by the department to do further reading on relevant topics. Sociology students will also be given guided watching lists with documentaries, Ted talks and podcasts which link to the AQA specification. Many of these are produced by sociologists or sociology teachers in the field and aim to stretch and challenge students' understanding.

Trips, where possible, will be arranged by the department to museums and places of interest as the course progresses. Outside speakers will visit where possible to give further insight into topics.

What can parents/carers do to support extended learning in this subject?

Parents could encourage a passion for sociology by visits to museums and exhibitions. Suggested museums include the childhood museum and any exhibitions which aim to promote equality and diversity.

Parents and carers could also engage in open conversations with their child about social matters, asking questions such as 'how might people be disadvantaged in our society?'

This could be done whilst simultaneously encouraging them to stay up to date with the news and current affairs, which would broaden their understanding of a variety of social issues.

Promoting the importance of wider reading and watching of crime, family and education-based documentaries will also enhance their child's understanding of the social issues explored in Sociology.