

Psychology at The Cavendish School

'The Brain—is wider than the Sky— For—put them side by side— The one the other will contain' Emily Dickinson c.1862

This engaging and effective qualification introduces students to the fundamentals of psychology, developing critical analysis, independent thinking and research skills. This skillset is fundamental to the Cavendish mission of Enabling the Self and supporting inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people to achieve their aspirations.

Developing Key Skills and Knowledge through Participation in Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. The human mind is the most complex machine on Earth. Psychology is a fascinating subject that will help you understand mental processes and human behaviour to better understand why we think, act and feel the way we do. One of the best reasons to study psychology is to gain a better understanding of how humans think and develop. This enables you to understand a range of different perspectives, and at the same time, to test them for strength of argument and breadth of evidence, developing critical thinking, analysis and evaluation skills. You will study theories about behaviour, key studies and research, as well as learning how to conduct your own experiments.

The study of Psychology contributes to the development of enquiring, self-aware, insightful and independent learners, with a rich understanding of how the mind develops at each stage, how psychology contributes to understanding social and cultural diversity, how social factors impact behaviour, and the connection between language and thought. Learners will also delve into the brain and its relationship to behaviour and examine the causes and treatment of psychological disorders. They will learn to apply this knowledge in various contexts, analysing and evaluating ideas.

KS4 Units:

Cognition and behaviour

1. Memory
2. Perception
3. Development

4. Research methods

Social context and behaviour

1. Social influence
2. Language, thought and communication
3. Brain and neuropsychology
4. Psychological problems

School priorities and vision

As an International Baccalaureate School, our school has a variety of values that we feel are essential to our students' development and journey with us. These are:



The Psychology curriculum is designed to incorporate all aspects of our IB learning statements in order to create well rounded students. At the end of their school journey, our students will be:

- **Knowledgeable** about themselves and other people, with a rich understanding of the development of the mind.
- **Reflective** on different perspectives, how these develop and how to evaluate and select between perspectives.
- **Moral** when the ethics of research studies and how to apply this in context.
- Able to **celebrate difference** when learning about social and cultural diversity, and the impact of this on research.
- **Thinking** in order to develop critical thinking, analysis and evaluation skills.
- **Caring** towards others through an understanding of how the mind is shaped and formed, and of psychological problems.
- Able to **communicate** their ideas using Psychology terminology and essay conventions.
- Able to give a **balanced** view on a debate taking different types of evidence into account.
- Confident in **inquiring**, using an analytical method to investigate ideas, research and evaluate evidence, and synthesise a justified conclusion.
- **Courageous** in learning new skills, stretching their resilience and participating fully in practical experiments.