

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION – CRIMINOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES
TEACHER OF PSYCHOLOGY

The Criminological and Psychological Sciences Department

Stratford upon Avon School's Criminological and Psychological Sciences Department is distinguished by its emphasis on the scientific rigour and real-world application of Psychology. Psychology is a high-profile and highly successful subject within the Sixth Form, consistently achieving strong outcomes and attracting significant student uptake. The Ofqual classification of Psychology as a science underpins the department's approach, ensuring a strong focus on empirical methods, data analysis, and theoretical evaluation. We are seeking a colleague with a specialism in Psychology (able to teach Sociology) to join our thriving and ambitious department. This is a full-time (FTE) vacancy, arising from the prospective career change of an existing member of staff.

Curriculum

The delivery of A-level Psychology is closely aligned with whole-school curriculum principles, ensuring a structured, coherent, and ambitious learning journey for all students.

"The curriculum is well designed. It ensures that pupils acquire knowledge in clearly sequenced steps."
(Ofsted, 2025)

Within the department, this is reflected through carefully sequenced schemes of learning that move from foundational psychological concepts towards increasingly complex evaluation and synoptic understanding. Students are supported to build secure knowledge over time, enabling them to apply their learning with confidence and precision.

Teaching is underpinned by strong subject expertise and a commitment to clarity and academic rigour.

"Teachers demonstrate strong subject expertise and typically present new material clearly and confidently."
(Ofsted, 2025)

Psychology teachers routinely model high-quality responses, explicitly teach exam technique, and use precise subject terminology to ensure students can access the highest grades. Lessons are designed to be engaging, intellectually stimulating, and memorable, with a strong emphasis on developing analytical and evaluative skills.

We teach the AQA A-level Psychology specification. Staff follow well-resourced and carefully planned schemes of learning that integrate theoretical content, practical investigations, and mathematical skills throughout the course.

Students benefit from 10 hours of taught lessons per fortnight, allowing for both breadth and depth of study. This enables time for detailed exploration of content, as well as the development of practical research skills and application of knowledge.

Assessment is rigorous and diagnostic. Students complete regular low-stakes assessments and half-termly progress tests, alongside frequent exam-style questions completed both in class and as homework. A combination of teacher, self, and peer assessment is used effectively, drawing on exam board mark schemes and examiner reports to refine performance and deepen understanding.

Staff

The department is welcoming, highly organised, and committed to excellence. Relationships between staff and students are exceptionally positive, reflecting the wider school ethos.

“There is a very strong sense of warmth and community... ‘There is a lovely feel to the school’ is a sentiment echoed by many.” (Ofsted, 2025)

Staff contribute actively to this culture, fostering an environment where students feel supported, challenged, and inspired to succeed. The department works closely with both Humanities and Science faculties, strengthening collaboration and sharing best practice across disciplines.

There are currently two specialists delivering the A-level course. The Curriculum Leader oversees curriculum design, assessment, and the ongoing development of teaching and learning. Staff are experienced A-level examiners and active members of professional bodies including the British Psychological Society and the American Psychological Association.

Professional development is a key strength. Staff are encouraged to engage with local and national training opportunities, and the department supports colleagues pursuing further qualifications at Certificate, Diploma, or Masters level. Early Career Teachers are fully supported through a structured induction programme, including regular mentoring alongside the whole-school provision.

The department offers a range of enrichment opportunities for students, including trips, visiting speakers, and contributions to National Science Week. Staff also support wider extracurricular provision, helping to contextualise Psychology within real-world settings and contemporary issues.

Facilities

The department benefits from dedicated post-16 teaching rooms located in one of the brand-new wings located off the Science corridor, with access to a computer suite. Students have access to a well-stocked departmental library, including a wide range of up-to-date texts covering core topics, statistics, and specialist areas of Psychology. The department also has access to equipment/apparatus from the Science faculty, enabling practical demonstrations and data collection to support experimental work. Laboratories can be booked for this.

Conclusion

We are looking to appoint a creative, knowledgeable, and committed teacher of Psychology at Key Stage 5, with the ability and willingness to contribute to the teaching of KS4/5 Sociology.

This is an excellent opportunity to join a successful, well-resourced, and forward-thinking department within a supportive and ambitious school. The successful candidate will play a key role in building on existing strengths and contributing to the continued success of the department and wider school community. I look forward to receiving your application.

Bhupinder Kuwar (C.Psychol., AFBPsS)

Curriculum Leader – Criminological and Psychological Sciences & EPQ Centre Coordinator

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