



GOSFORD HILL
SCHOOL

Social Sciences Department



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Our vision and aims (Intent):

- The Study of Humanity: Our department aims to develop students into critical thinkers who can scientifically and theoretically examine the complex relationships between individuals, society, and the institutions that shape our world.
- Inclusive Ambition: Our curriculum is ambitious and inclusive for all, purposefully designed to represent a diverse range of social identities, cultures, and lived experiences. We ensure that every learner – regardless of their starting point – can access high-quality social science education and see themselves reflected in the theories and case studies we explore.
- Empowerment through Knowledge: We intend for students to master substantive knowledge across three key disciplines:
 - Health & Social Care (KS4 & KS5): Understanding human development and the core values of care required to support individuals across the lifespan.
 - Sociology (KS5): Critiquing power dynamics, social structures, and the institutions—such as the family and education—that influence human life.
 - Psychology (KS5): Mastering the “science of the mind” to understand the biological and environmental drivers of human thought and behaviour.
- Global Citizenship: We foster empathetic, informed citizens who can navigate contemporary social issues—such as mental health, inequality, and social justice—with academic rigour and sensitivity.



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Our approach to teaching (Implementation):

- Disciplinary Literacy: We explicitly teach specialist terminology, enabling students to move from anecdotal discussion to sophisticated academic analysis.
- Evidence-Based Pedagogy: Following our commitment to long-term memory, we use regular retrieval practice and "Do Now Activities" to secure foundational theories and key studies before moving to complex evaluation.
- Vocational and Scientific Application:
 - In Health & Social Care, we use real-life scenarios to apply the "6 Cs" of care in vocational contexts.
 - In Psychology, we adopt a "scientist-practitioner" approach, teaching students to design experiments and analyse statistical data.
 - In Sociology, we apply the "Big Four" theoretical frameworks (Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, and Interactionism) to contemporary social phenomena.
- Research Mastery: Students are taught how to work like social scientists, learning to design, conduct, and critique various research methods, from longitudinal studies to ethical experiments.
- High-Level Argumentation: We provide high-quality modelling to help students construct "chains of reasoning," weighing competing perspectives to reach balanced, evidence-based conclusions.



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How we measure success (Impact):

- Analytical Mastery: Students demonstrate success by becoming critical consumers of information, able to identify bias and evaluate the validity of claims in the media and wider society.
- Empathetic Practitioners: Impact is evidenced by students who show a profound understanding of social ethics and a commitment to treating all individuals with dignity and respect.
- Academic Ability: Our learners produce high-level evaluative essays and coursework that meet the rigours of BTEC and A-Level specifications, preparing them for further study if they choose.
- Future Pathways: Success is measured by a growing number of students who progress into vital sectors, including nursing, social work, teaching, law, and clinical psychology
- Responsible Agency: The ultimate impact is seen in students who finish courses with the confidence to actively participate in society, equipped with the resilience and tools to contribute to a fairer, more inclusive world.