Westcliff High School for Girls

Psychology Department

Psychology is a popular subject at WHSG with four classes taught in both Years 12 and 13. Currently staffed by two experienced Psychology specialists, we have very high expectations of our students in all areas of their work and encourage a healthy attitude to learning in all its aspects, including homework, independent research and study skills, listening and note-taking, communication and of course, punctuality and attendance.

Popular amongst students in the Sixth Form, both standards in the department and students' achievements are high with our A*-B grades rising over the last three years from 72% to 86%. Many students go on to study Psychology at degree level and the department takes an active role in helping students with their applications.

The AQA Linear A Level specification is taught with a key focus on the skills and techniques necessary to achieve at the highest level. Students' familiarity with and understanding of the demands of the examination is key to success and to this end frequent peer, self and teacher assessment is undertaken. Students take pride in their work and achievements and this is routinely monitored via folder and progress checks.

The department is currently housed in the West Wing building, comprising two large classrooms where classes may be taught concurrently. There is also a spacious, fully resourced Psychology office and a library of textbooks and periodicals to both support and stretch our students.

We encourage students to take an active part in the life of the department and as such they have a key role to play in the running of our Psychology Society and Psychology Film Club. Run entirely by the students, these extra-curricular activities function to provide the opportunity to gain an appreciation of the subject beyond the demands of the specification while also igniting an interest in Psychology in our younger students in Years 9 to 11.

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