

# SOCIOLOGY



A level Sociology aims to provide Weald students with an in-depth understanding and respect for the social world around them and the ability to recognise the environmental factors affecting the behaviour and life chances of individuals and groups.

Through the study of Sociology as an evidence-based approach to understanding social phenomena, our students will develop the courage, resilience and tolerance to appreciate the causes, impact and subsequent consequences of societal change on the structure of social institutions such as the family, education, religion and crime.

Furthermore, our Weald students will develop a deeper understanding of individuals and specific groups life chances based on key social variables such as class, age, gender, ethnicity and sexuality (CAGES) that exist in our society. This includes understanding the impact of social policy and political decision making, and critically assessing the impact of both historical and contemporary societal changes.

Through empowering individuals with a wider knowledge of society, our Weald Sociology students develop key values of curiosity, courage and compassion. Both teachers and students demonstrate and model these values within classroom discussion and debate. They will become effective, empathetic citizens who appreciate diversity and critically

assess their own role within society. Our students will be equipped with a greater understanding of, and compassion for, the challenges facing individuals and groups beyond their own experiences.

The Sociology Department is proud to hold regular super-curricular events at lunchtime and after-school throughout the academic year, providing opportunities for students to exercise their sociological imagination and to extend their depth and breadth of sociological awareness. We invite all sixth form students to these events, as we believe every student should have the opportunity to think sociologically during their sixth form journey.

Students will develop:

- Their resilience for developing and exploring deep knowledge of sociological theory and evidence-based decision making.
- A scholarly and academic approach to the subject, including the development of a strong and empowering sociological vocabulary.
- The skills to be an effective social scientist, including a critical view of research methods.
- The ability to critically assess reasons for and impacts of inequality in a range of different settings.
- An understanding of the challenges faced by others to develop kindness and become empathetic and responsible citizens.
- Having the courage to be more open minded to changes around them and the resilience to appreciate differences between people.
- To take responsibility and have the courage to seek solutions to real world issues through social policy.

- Tolerance for the views of others, even if they do not agree with their views.

Students will have the opportunity to learn via:

- A classroom environment which is active, challenging and curious about wrong answers.
- A student-centred classroom which comes alive with discussion, oracy, collaboration and a high ratio of participation and thinking hard.
- A learning approach which is underpinned by cognitive science, especially opportunities for maintenance rehearsal and meaningful memory retrieval.
- Subject specialists who exude passion for the impact their subject can have on society.
- A learning environment underpinned by formative feedback, including live feedback, verbal feedback, self-assessment and peer assessment, modelling and guided practice.
- Termly common assessments with reflective group and individual feedback which encourages students to think and reflect more deeply about their own progress, and to actively embed feedback with the use of repair tasks and ongoing skills-focused targets.
- Teachers who teach to the top without oversimplifying or reducing the curriculum. A focus on the whole student, not just exam grades.