# PSYCHOLOGY WEBSITE RATIONALE

A clear overview of the purpose, content and delivery of Psychology at Hasmonean.

## What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. It explores how people think, feel, develop and interact, and how biological, cognitive and social factors influence behaviour.

Students examine psychological theories and research evidence, learn how psychologists design and evaluate investigations, and apply their knowledge to real-life issues. The subject ranges from memory, attachment and social influence to mental health, aggression, brain function and child development.

## Why do we teach Psychology at Hasmonean?

Psychology gives students a deeper understanding of themselves, other people and the society in which they live. It develops critical thinking, extended writing, research, mathematical and data-analysis skills, while encouraging students to question claims and judge the quality of evidence rather than accept conclusions uncritically.

In keeping with Hasmonean's ethos of Torah im Derech Eretz, the curriculum enables students to engage thoughtfully with the modern world while remaining alert to ethical, cultural and social considerations. The study of mental health, relationships, development and individual differences promotes empathy, respect and an informed awareness of contemporary wellbeing issues.

The course also provides a strong foundation for university study and for careers in psychology, healthcare, education, law, research, social care and other fields in which understanding people and evidence is important.

## How do we teach Psychology at Key Stage 5?

Students follow the AQA A Level Psychology specification (7182). The two-year curriculum combines substantive psychological knowledge with research methods, mathematical skills, application and evaluation. The course is assessed through three written papers at the end of Year 13: Introductory Topics in Psychology, Psychology in Context, and Issues and Options in Psychology.

In Year 12, students study Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Clinical Psychology and Mental Health, Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods. Foundational research methods and approaches are taught early and then revisited across topics so that students learn to analyse studies, interpret evidence and evaluate explanations with increasing confidence.

In Year 13, students deepen their understanding through Issues and Debates, Schizophrenia, Aggression, Cognition and Development, advanced Research Methods and inferential statistics. These topics require students to make synoptic links across the course and compare biological, cognitive, social and environmental explanations of behaviour.

Teaching includes regular pre-learning, retrieval practice, explicit explanation, modelling, questioning, low-stakes testing, discussion and structured examination practice. Digital resources and opportunities to hear from people working in relevant fields help students connect theory to contemporary practice. Resources are adapted and scaffolded where appropriate, with extension and further reading used to stretch higher-attaining students.

Formative assessment is embedded in lessons and is supported by scheduled summative assessment, detailed feedback and targeted intervention. This allows students to identify gaps, improve their responses and develop the independence, accuracy and critical judgement required for success at A Level and beyond.