

Job Title: Head of Psychology
Responsible to: Head of Faculty
Faculty: Sport and Social Science

The Psychology Department is part of the Sport and Social Science Faculty and is housed in the purpose built John Shields Building. All classrooms have interactive whiteboards and data projectors.

College-wide issues, as well as some subject matters, and pastoral provision, are dealt with at the faculty level, though the bulk of subject development is done within the Psychology Department. In addition to teaching Psychology, all full-time staff are Personal Tutors and are involved in the College enrichment programme.

At present, a large number of students, over 700, follow A level Psychology. In the lower sixth, there are nineteen groups and sixteen in the upper. Classes tend to be approximately 60% female. Currently, the full complement of the department is 12 staff members, all teaching a full psychology timetable including part-time teachers. We follow the AQA Specification. Students are taught by two teachers, each one covering different topics of the specification.

The college timetable currently runs from 08-30 to 16-35. Each class comprises of 5 lessons of 55 minutes. The vast majority of students progress on to higher education, and of these a significant proportion go on to read Psychology. Achievements in Psychology have been consistently strong and the department secured a grade 1 in the latest round of Ofsted Inspections (2008).

The A Level results for 2018 were as follows:

Psychology (AQA)	Pass % College	Pass % National	High grades A*-B College	High grades A*-B National
2018	98	97	52	45

The person appointed to this post should be a graduate of Psychology or a closely allied subject. He or she must be an experienced Teacher of Psychology at A level. He or she would also be a Personal Tutor.

In addition, candidates should possess the following characteristics:

- an ability to enthusiastically transfer knowledge, understanding and skills of Psychology to students;
- an ability to be an effective Personal Tutor, giving students pastoral guidance and support;
- be an enthusiastic participant in curriculum development;
- be committed to proactive subject-specific student support
- an effective communicator and leader.

All students/courses make use of Information Technology. There are numerous PCs available in the Ashurst Learning Resources Centre and elsewhere throughout the college. Excel spreadsheets, Internet, Intranet and commercial software are used to help promote learning and add extra interest to courses. The department is planning to develop this use over the next few years. Weekly lunchtime workshop sessions are provided for all students by departmental staff and regular use is made of this facility. The department also prepares its own study material which is issued to students, although students also use a set textbook.

Nigel Gibson
 Head of Faculty
 Feb 2019