

SOCIOLOGY

WHY SOCIOLOGY?

This exciting and expanding subject is offered at Higher level for S6 pupils only. The course investigates a number of areas relevant to modern life. These include: class, deviance, poverty and education. Learning is by way of discussion and group investigation.

The aim of sociology at Higher is to develop a knowledge and understanding of sociological concepts, theories and methods and their distinctive approach to the analysis and explanation of substantive areas of society. It will promote the ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate sociological arguments, evidence and research methods in a critical way.

WHO CAN TAKE SOCIOLOGY?

This is a fascinating subject but is also academically challenging. In order to take the course you must have gained an A or a B in your Higher English prelim. If you have not taken English in S5, you must have gained an A or a B in your Higher History or Modern Studies prelim.

COURSE CONTENT

The introduction to Sociological theory takes place in June. This opens up “the sociological imagination” and introduces pupils to ideas about the society we live in. The investigation of sociological theories continues in August and initially covers Marxism, Functionalism, Feminism, Neo-Marxism, Weberianism and Symbolic Interactionism. (We will also look briefly at Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology). During the course we will study theories of the New Right and Neo-functionalists; and look at Post-Modernism. The course also investigates Sociological research methods.

During the course, we will undertake an in-depth study of social stratification, the sociology of education, wealth and poverty and crime and deviance. There are three unit assessments, an assignment which makes up 33% of the overall mark and an external exam in June which makes up 67% of the overall mark.

Further advice and information is available from Mr MacKay, Mrs Slavin or Mrs Reid.