

## **Oakwood Park Grammar School**

### **Sociology Department details**

Sociology is a very popular A-Level subject taught at OPGS with consistently excellent exam results. Students take a deep interest in learning and extending their knowledge about key issues in society such as Crime and Identity. The demand for places for the subject has been exceedingly high over the last 5 years. Students taking Sociology at A-Level do not need to study it at GCSE with the entry requirement being those needed for the Sixth Form entry at OPGS. Despite the subject not being taught at GCSE, students in Year 10 and 11 at OPGS have been discovering some elements of Sociology through taster and Information, Advice & Guidance sessions as well as the school's rich PHSE programme.

Students study the OCR A syllabus as part of the course. In Year 12, students cover topics such as Agents of Socialisation, Identity, Social Inequality and Youth Subcultures. In Year 13, students focus on Research Methods, Crime and the Digital World. Students also extend their knowledge through independent research and reading around current social issues with particular emphasis on class, gender and ethnicity.

Students explore the subject combining taught lessons and independent learning done outside of the classroom. The Sociology department encourages independent thinking and class debates contribute to the lively and inclusive nature of the subject at OPGS. Students also undertake various extra-curricular activities such as entering for Sociology essay competitions, taking part in many class discussions on a wide range of social issues, undertaking Extended Project Qualification related to Sociology and attending talks from various speakers. A large number of students taking the course over the previous years have also enrolled to study Sociology subjects at top UK universities. A number of these ex-students have regularly been returning to be involved with enrichment and taster sessions over the recent years.

The Sociology department has been working closely with a number of other departments in the school including the Government & Politics and Economics, focussing on Teaching and Learning strategies and sharing of best practice through professional development sessions.