



### **Our vision for Sociology at Lister**

Adolescence is a time when young people begin exploring their place in the world and their identity. The goal of sociology is to enhance students' understanding of the social world, to teach them to analyse and interpret human behaviour and understand how the society in which they live influences their social actions and relationships.

Sociology helps students develop their critical thinking and essay writing skills. Students are required to:

- Write critically, showing an understanding of sociological theories and perspectives.
- Analyse data to explore trends, and apply theories based on the trends identified.
- Evaluate various theories which are interwoven throughout the course.

### **What do we teach in KS4 Sociology?**

***The Sociological Approach and Research Methods:*** We begin by providing students with a general overview of various theories and sociological approaches that they can apply to the course. We look at how sociologists study society. Students will learn about various research methods and apply these to the topics covered throughout the course.

***The Family:*** Secondly, we teach about the family as a 'social institution' because it's the first agent of socialisation that we experience, and students can relate to various experiences within this stage. We analyse different family types in the UK and the rest of the world, how the family has changed throughout history, gendered roles within families, marriage and divorce.

***Education:*** Thirdly, we focus on the institute of education as this is something our students are also very familiar with. We look at socialisation in different types of schools, the impact of social class/ethnicity/gender on educational achievement, the influence of external/internal factors on a student's achievement and the changes in educational policy throughout history.

***Social Stratification:*** Fourthly, we teach about divisions in society based on the social class system, because as we get older we realise that society is grouped into different strata. We analyse why and how this impacts peoples' life chances, and we learn about the welfare state, globalisation, poverty, power and social mobility.

***Crime and Deviance:*** Lastly, we focus on crime and deviance. Crime is a feature of all human societies and exists due to the social construct of law which varies throughout the world and history. Students find it highly engaging to apply sociological theories to real life examples such as the London riots. We focus on the reasons for crime/deviance, punishments, the differences between social class/ethnicity/gender groups in relation to crime, official statistics and sociological perspectives on crime.

### **PSHCE/SMSC links:**

Sociology encourages students to examine society with a critical eye to question assumptions, stereotypes and generalisations that underlie conventional social interactions and beliefs about the world. This presents opportunities for students to develop skills and tools that are useful in the world of work and beyond. Likewise, Sociology can serve as a way of extending students' literacy skills which will better prepare them for their future.