A study of the way in which human beings are shaped by things they don’t see.

SAM RICHARDS
**What is Sociology?**

Are you interested in contemporary, modern Britain? Do you want to acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of the social world in which you live? Then choose Sociology and learn to develop your skills in organising and presenting information, ideas, descriptions and arguments.

The Sociology department at Carmel is a successful and lively one. We offer a range of teaching styles and learning experiences and aim to broaden your understanding of the social and political world around you, as well as enabling you to achieve exam success.

**What will I study?**

The course is a 2 year course. You will study modules introducing socialisation, culture and identity (with a particular focus on youth subcultures); research methods and social inequalities; and globalisation and the digital world (with a particular focus on crime and deviance).

**What exams do I have to take?**

You will sit 3 exams at the end of the second year. The first exam will be 1 hour 30 minutes (30% of the total A level); the second and third exams will be 2 hours and 15 minutes each (each are 35% of the total A level).

**Where can Sociology lead?**

Sociology students go on to a hugely diverse range of careers and H.E. courses, from jobs in the media, such as researchers and journalists, to teaching, police work, social work, health care – the list is endless!

There is also a wide variety of opportunities in all aspects of social research, such as youth services, criminal justice system, education, etc.

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**Neve Sutton**
Broughton Hall
Studying: Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies

My favourite aspect of studying at Carmel is the freedom students have. I am able to balance my academic studies with my independent learning as well as socialising with my friends.

Sociology is definitely my favourite subject as I find the lessons so engaging due to the variety of activities we do, such as debating the different explanations of society to researching gang cultures. I would definitely recommend choosing Sociology as not only do I now have a wider understanding of society but I can apply my knowledge of society to my other subjects.

What has impressed me most about Carmel is how dedicated the teachers are at ensuring each student has a full understanding of their subject. They offer a wide range of help and support in their own free time and at lunchtime clubs as well as emailing suggestions for wider reading. If you take advantage of these you are guaranteed to be successful.

After I leave Carmel, I hope to go to Manchester Metropolitan University to study Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations.
What is the Sociology department like?
Our Sociology department has a range of specialist resources to help you with your knowledge, skills and interest in the subject.

We have multi-media projectors and interactive white boards in each of our teaching bases, specialist journals, an up-to-date and wide ranging collection of books, DVDs and a well-developed dedicated area on the college intranet site.

We tackle contemporary topics in exciting ways and work on developing your research skills for you to become a sociologist in the making. We use a wide variety of teaching and e-learning methods to help you to make sense of your own experiences in society, and to give you the 'tools' which will allow you to become a better informed and more socially aware member of society.

What support will I receive?
In Sociology, you will develop the necessary skills to enable you to assess different views and reach conclusions about society, based on a careful consideration of evidence. As most schools do not offer GCSE Sociology, it is not necessary to have any prior learning in the subject – we help you to develop and understand the elements and skills in Sociology. We have an established and sound tutorial system where you can ask any member of the department for help at any time. In addition, you can ask the Study Support Tutors for specific help, for example, with essay writing.

How can I enrich my Sociology studies?
Along with an immensely challenging and exciting discipline, you will also have the opportunity to experience the social world first hand. We organise visits and speakers in the following areas:

• Visits to the Crown Court where you will meet the staff and sit in the public gallery in a variety of different cases;
• Speakers from different religions who talk about their beliefs and how they affect their lives;
• Revision visits to Manchester University to help with preparation for your exams;
• Visits to the Houses of Parliament and The Old Bailey, Washington DC and New York City;
• Sociology Day with guest speakers and activities.

I enjoy studying at Carmel because I have the chance to balance my work with enrichment activities. Sociology is an interesting subject which sparks debate in the classroom. There’s a lot of interaction in the lessons and you are always learning new and surprising things about society.

At Carmel there are many enrichment activities you can participate in; from table tennis to futsal and basketball, there is something for all students. What has impressed me the most is the amount of freedom students have for independent study and how you can balance this extra learning with enrichment activities.

After Carmel I hope to go to Liverpool University to study either Physiotherapy or Psychology.

Joseph Wray
St Edmund Arrowsmith Whiston
Studying: Sociology, Psychology, Biology, English Lang & Lit

“The function of Sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden.”
PIERRE BOURDIEU

MEET THE TUTORS
Andrea Mathews
Head of Sociology
Kieran Cropper
Christie Edwards

Sociology students in Liverpool
What are the entry requirements for Sociology?
You will need GCSE grade 5 in English Language.

How successful are Carmel’s Sociology students?
We have an excellent and established A Level course. In 2021, 86% of our students achieved A*-C grades. Most of our students have progressed on to a Sociology related degree or career.

Which subjects complement this A Level?
It really depends on your career options, but any of the following work well with Sociology: Government & Politics; Health & Social Care; History; Media Studies; Law; Psychology; Philosophy & Religion.

Can I study Sociology if I haven’t taken it at GCSE?
Yes! Most schools do not offer GCSE Sociology, so the course is taught with the assumption that you have no prior knowledge of the subject.

What makes a successful Sociology student?
An interest in social and political issues; a willingness to participate; an ability to write effectively; effort and initiative; keeping up to date with the news, documentaries, etc; respecting and listening to other peoples’ views.

More Information
Contact the Sociology department any time if you want to find out more: andrea@carmel.ac.uk