



Case study

Showing students the ‘bigger picture’ at A Level



I'm a Scientist encourages independent thought and shows students the practical applications of their studies. Connecting with real psychologists also helps them decide what they'll do next year and into the future.

Lesley, Head of Psychology at Bay House School

Bay House School is a large comprehensive school with mixed attainment levels. Head of Psychology Lesley takes part in the *I'm a Scientist* activity to open her students' eyes to psychology beyond the limitations of the A Level curriculum.

“Students can get bogged down in memorising facts and not see the bigger picture,” she says, “particularly in A Level, with so much theory based learning.”

Students read about studies in books but don't see those researchers as actual people – the idea they can speak to a real psychologist through this activity kinda blows their mind!

Demonstrating practical applications of curriculum content

When it comes to using valuable lesson time on the activity, Lesley says “the benefits far outweigh the time spent on it.”

Through the *I'm a Scientist* activity, Lesley's students learn about the process of carrying out research, something that is vital to aid their understanding of the Psychology A Level research methods unit.

Real people, real jobs

I'm a Scientist tackles current stereotypes by showing students that psychologists are a diverse bunch. “It was good for them to see not all psychologists are lecturers or have PhDs,” says Lesley, “and that there is a range of levels of career.”

Lesley's students found they could relate to the psychologists and really engaged with the opportunity to speak with real people currently working in the field. “Students read about studies in books but don't see those researchers as actual people – the idea they can speak to a real psychologist through this activity kinda blows their mind!”

Read the full case study: ias.im/96.11248

Register to take part: imascientist.org.uk/teachers