



PsYonline Associate Scheme **Initial Information**

Introduction

PsYonline started as a DfES funded project to enable a Partnership Team of 6 schools together with researchers and academics from Edge Hill University to develop a central index of existing psychology websites for the AQA(A) A Level psychology syllabus. From humble beginnings PsYonline has grown to an extensive resource website with a designated Student Room incorporating a wide-range of facilities and a Teachers' Community with users from across the world. Further to this, PsYonline has provided the basis for research into the study of psychology at degree level.

In addition to the many resources PsYonline makes available to all its users, we have also offered extra features to the schools making up the Partnership Team, including message forums and inter-school competitions. These message forums, which are very similar to the Staff Room in the Teachers' Area, have proved to be a huge success, allowing students to post messages across schools and to ask help from teachers when necessary. We have had many requests to make these facilities available to more schools, but due to financial and practical considerations we have, as yet, been unable to do so.

PsYonline is now in a time of transition. We are seeking ways in which we can continue to run PsYonline, open up facilities to more schools (which are currently limited to the PsYonline Partner Schools) and to enable access to new initiatives and resources which PsYonline is currently considering - hence the development of the PsYonline Associate Scheme (PAS).

What is the PsYonline Associate Scheme?

The PsYonline Associate Scheme allows schools to partner with us, giving exclusive benefits to both psychology teachers and students at the associate school and enabling PsYonline to grow and develop by drawing on the expertise of the psychology staff at each associate school.

Benefits for you and your school:

For psychology teachers:

- A reduced delegate rate for the PsYonline Teaching and Learning Conference (July 2007)
- P.A.S.N. (PsYonline Associate Scheme News) A bi-annual email newsletter.
- Access to a mentorship scheme for new teachers. (This scheme is still under consideration; more details will be posted on the website soon.)

For your psychology students:

- Opportunities to take part in inter-school competitions.
- Access to the Common Room - student message forums which are open 24 hours a day enabling students to:
 - Communicate with students across all PsYonline Associate Schools (for study help or general chat)
 - Post questions to teachers for study help.

In addition, PsYonline will create an Associate School Webpage, which will list and link to all schools that are part of the scheme. Schools will also be sent the PsYonline Associate School logo to put on their website, should they wish to do so.

Associate School Participation

In order for PsYonline to grow and develop, and to make PAS a success, we would like to draw upon the expertise of psychology teachers at each associate school. The focus of this will be in the Common Room.

Following recent discussions in the Staff Room (Teachers' Area), we would like to offer students a secure forum where they can post messages to other students, but also have access to an 'Ask a Teacher' facility. We ask that at least one psychology teacher from each associate school commit to helping us answer questions from students. Whilst the Common Room will remain open to students 24/7 all year round, the 'Ask a Teacher' space will only be open during term time. Therefore, this is a term-time commitment for teachers. We would like to guarantee students an answer to their question within 7 days, so we ask that teachers login a minimum of once a week to answer any questions posted by students. With teachers across multiple schools participating, this should not be a large extra workload. (NB: The PsYonline office will be responsible for monitoring and moderating the Common Room throughout the year).

In addition to the Common Room, we would like to give PAS teachers the opportunity to contribute to the development of the PsYonline website. This could be through the creation of resources or new ideas and initiatives for site content.

Will PsYonline help me set up the Associate Scheme in my school?

Yes! We have systems and resources to make the process as simple as possible. These include:

- A full information pack, to show to other staff at your school, prior to 'signing-up'.
- A secure registration process.
- Printable teacher and student guides.
- Printable posters and fliers about PAS for your school.
- An email help facility.

NOTE: Due to practical issues, the PsYonline Associate Scheme is only available to schools that have at least one teacher with an active Teachers' Area account.

How much does the PsYonline Associate Scheme cost?

Each PsYonline Associate School will be charged £100 per academic year. This fee covers all setup and administrative costs for up to and including 200 students (AS and A2 inclusive) and unlimited teachers. For larger schools of over 200 psychology students the charge is £130. In both cases this is exclusive of VAT. The fee remains the same regardless of when during the academic year a school joins the scheme, as the same setup and administrative costs need to be met.

I'm interested, so what do I do now?

If have any questions or if you would like to receive a full information pack (via email) to show to other members of staff at your school please email the PsYonline office and we will be pleased to help you. We look forward to hearing from you.

Email: office@psyonline.org.uk