**INHERITED CHARACTERISTICS**

**Many of our physical characteristics are inherited from our parents:**

* eye colour
* hair colour and type
* skin colour Inherited characteristics
* ear lobes
* tongue rolling

**There are some non-physical characteristics which are not directly inherited:**

* sense of humour

Learned characteristics – these are characteristics about yourself which you can alter

* character
* morals
* persistence

**Learned characteristics are all heavily influenced by your interactions with your environment.**

**There are some characteristics which seem to a combination of inherited and learned – such as personality and intelligence,**

**Genetics is the study of inherited characteristics – so genetic studies look at patterns of inheritance in physical characteristics of organisms.**

**Inherited characteristics are generally split into two categories – discreet vs continuous variation.**

**Inherited characteristics which display a discreet pattern of variation are the simplest form of inheritance – these characteristics have a yes or no appearance.**

Yes – I can roll my tongue.

No – I can’t roll my tongue.

**Inherited characteristics which display a continuous variation pattern have to be measured (not counted), and display a range of appearances.**

e.g. eye colour

height

**Patterns of inheritance can be identified by frequency histograms:**

**DISCREET CONTINUOUS LEARNED**

frequency

frequency

frequency

Persistence

height

Yes No

Tongue rolling