



Why we teach what we teach

Our aim is to introduce students to the Criminal Justice System, the reasons as to why people turn to crime and the way in which we can control this as a society. The Criminology course has elements of the other Social Sciences and highly complements the study of Sociology and Psychology. Criminology also flows from Religious Education, which we view as our 'gateway' subject.

We teach Criminology as it is a subject that enhances understanding human behaviour - drawing on a wide range of disciplines, including Biology, Psychology, and Sociology. Students develop a broad set of academic skills as well as empathy and understanding of the policies to reduce offending.

Core concepts	Students start off by thinking about how crimes are influenced in society, how we as individuals are aware of the crimes being committed in society. The students build on this to then consider the sociological and psychological theories behind crime in society. In the second year of study the students utilise this knowledge to gain a deeper understanding of how the criminal justice system works with regards to investigations and prosecutions.
How our curriculum builds over time	The curriculum is designed to provide students with a wide range of skills such as researching, note taking, assessing, and evaluating and provides an excellent basis for higher education as well as the world of work. Within each unit of the course, students are encouraged to research true crime cases to apply their knowledge. The criminology curriculum is a great way to continue an academic education from a humanities and social sciences pathway. It intends to join up interests and passions gained from a range of humanities GCSE subjects such as geography, history, and PRE.
Key ingredients of a lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ A safe environment where success is celebrated, and less confident individuals feel brave enough to 'take a risk' without fear of getting it wrong➤ Passionate and enthusiastic teachers who love what they do and enjoy introducing students to breadth of knowledge and understanding associated with the study of criminology➤ Students who are inquisitive, eager to learn and enjoy exploring new psychological and sociological concepts➤ Access to a curriculum that explores a wide range of concepts, processes and contexts and applies new ideas to real life examples➤ The opportunity to further and enhance understanding through extra-curricular activities including visits to courts and prisons.➤ Up to date pedagogy, including technology, to deliver the most relevant and engaging lessons at all
How we assess the knowledge, understanding and skills of students	As part of the formal assessment of the course, students undertake two controlled assessments and two externally assessed exams. Students also take a number of internal assessments. The unit 1 assessment asks students to design a campaign for change and uses ICT skills and subject specific knowledge, the unit 3 controlled assessment asks students to assess examine information to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases by considering the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the case and how miscarriages of justice might occur.

<p>How we provide cultural capital and extra-curricular opportunities</p>	<p>We have used external speakers where possible including solicitors, police officers and youth workers. Students are encouraged to undertake their own research in areas of criminality that interest them.</p>
<p>How we provide stretch and challenge enrichment</p>	<p>Knowledge is stretched and challenged using extended reading, TED talks, documentaries and journal articles.</p>
<p>How we adapt our curriculum to meet the needs of all students</p>	<p>Students have access to regular support sessions at break and lunchtimes. Year 12 units can be retaken in Year 13 to enable students to enhance their grade even further. Equal weighting of each year helps to alleviate pressure of students if successful in Year 12. Controlled assessment element means fewer exams which makes the course very popular.</p>
<p>How we link our subject knowledge to the world of work and further study</p>	<p>Students taking the course often have career aspirations of working with the police force, criminology, forensic psychology, community development and probation, working with links to universities such as ARU using visiting speakers to promote careers and HE.</p>
<p>How we provide personal development for students</p>	<p>Discussions around criminal behaviour can be personal to students. As such empathy for why some people might resort to crime is integral to the course. Examining biological, psychological, and sociological reasons helps promote the idea of treating everyone as an individual. Encouraging empathy and understanding of people and their situations. Talking about charities that help those at risk of committing crimes or those being released from prison may inspire students to get involved in other voluntary organisations.</p>