CRIMINOLOGY

Level 3 Applied Diploma

COURSE CONTENT

Criminology is about much more than the study of crime - it is about the factors that lead people to commit crime, the ways in which society responds to crime and the effects of crime on individuals and society as a whole. There are four units that will be studied over the two years:

Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime – crime reporting and the public perception of criminality, using campaigns to elicit change.

Unit 2: Criminological Theories – social construction of criminality and deviance, biological, individualistic and sociological theories of crime and policy development. Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom – the process of criminal investigations and prosecution.

Unit 4: Crime and Punishment – law making and the criminal justice system, forms, aims and success of punishment, agencies of social control.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Units 1 (controlled assessment) and 2 (exam) completed in the first year comprise an 8-hour Controlled Assessment plus a formal examination. This is replicated in Year 2 with Units 3 (controlled assessment) and 4 (exam).

You must complete and pass ALL units to gain the Diploma. The overall grades will be recorded on a scale A*-E.

The qualification is an Applied General qualification, which means it is primarily designed to support you in progressing onto university.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OR ENRICHEMENT

Visits to the Liverpool Crown Court and police stations, as well as having guest speakers deliver talks in school. There is also the opportunity to attend an annual crime conference called Crim Con held in London where experts, law enforcement professionals delve in to criminal cases and examine evidence.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

You may go on to study Criminology or a related course such as Psychology, Sociology or Law at university. The Criminal Justice System can provide career paths in: the police force e.g. detectives, prisoner and probation services or the crown prosecution service.

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Useful – Criminology is a Social Science and you will therefore have to be keen on reading and thinking about controversial and conflicting arguments. You will have to be prepared to develop your ability in essay writing.

Desirable – 5 GCSE grade 9-4 including a grade 4 in English Language.

Essential – To be successful on this course you would need to have a keen interest in crime, society and people as well as having a critical mind.