

Criminology at Raynes Park offers our students an introduction to the UK criminal justice system through a scientific study of criminal and deviant behaviour, using sociological and psychological explanations and theory. Thus combining two of our most popular subjects, Psychology and Sociology and introducing our students to the subject of Law. By studying Criminology our students will develop a rich knowledge and understanding of the different types of crime, the perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported. Allowing our students to consider their pre-existing beliefs and assumptions about what crime is and who commits crime. This allows our students to consider the diverse nature of the UK and how perspectives on crime and deviant behaviour has changed over time. Students consider where they live, in London and the surrounding areas and the influence of both demographics and geographic's on crime and statistics. Our students will be able to analyse and evaluate how laws are made and changed based on campaigns for change and evaluate their effectiveness. Finally, our students gain a deeper understanding of the organisations, personnel and skills needed to catch criminals and the structure of the justice system in the UK.

Criminology at Raynes Park will enable students to make informed decisions about potential future career routes, developing transferable skills and subject specific skills in order for them to make their next steps into further education, apprenticeships and the world of work.

Key Stage 5 Curriculum

Students will study the WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma specification and over the two-year course they will study four units; Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime (controlled assessment), Unit 2 Criminological Theories (exam), Unit 3 Crime Scene to court room (controlled assessment), Unit 4 Crime and Punishment (exam). Students will complete and be assessed on Unit 1 and 2 in Year 1 and Unit 3 and 4 in Year 2. The overall Diploma grade will be calculated based on the UMS for each unit combined together.

Extended Learning

What we offer to extend the learning of our students

Students in KS5 will be given an extended reading list with newspaper articles, academic literature and non-fiction/fiction books. This list links directly to the WJEC specification but also encourages students to explore Criminology beyond the curriculum.

Students in KS5, within their tutor programme and supervised study have the opportunity to access JSTOR, a digital library of academic journals and books, where students will be guided by the department to do further reading on relevant topics. Criminology students will also be given guided watching lists with documentaries, Ted talks and podcasts which link to the WJEC specification.

Students will be taken, where possible, on trips to hear criminologists speak on related topics, visits to The Old Bailey or local courts and outside speakers will visit to give further insight into topics.

What can parents do to support extended learning in this subject

Parents/carers can support students to keep up to date on the News and current affairs. Parents can encourage students to watch reputable documentaries, TED Talks and Podcasts suggested by the criminology teachers. Discussions at home on recent and past criminal cases and changes to the law will also improve student's communication skills and debating abilities.