

‘The Aspiring Criminologist’ KS4/5



CHELTENHAM BOURNSIDE SCHOOL

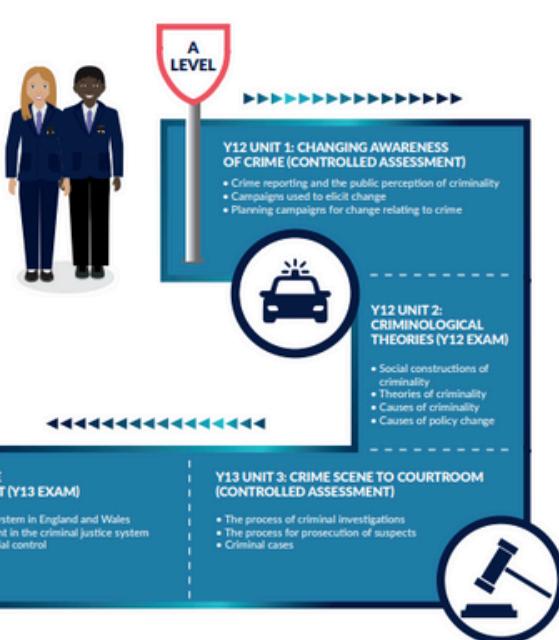
Inspiring lives through learning

'The Aspiring Criminologist'



CHELTENHAM
BOURNSIDE
SCHOOL

CRIMINOLOGY



'The Aspiring Criminologist'



Welcome to the Aspiring Criminologist Pathway. Criminology is a multi-disciplinary subject which aims to give an insight into why crime is committed, how it is portrayed in the media and what punishments/preventative measures can be taken to tackle it.

Undergraduates in this area develop the skills to understand, challenge and potentially transform the criminal justice system, helping to create a fairer society. You will be able to engage with current issues. Though it combines elements of Sociology, Psychology, History and Media, Criminology is also an interesting and well-respected undergraduate course in its own right.

While Criminology is usually offered as a BA (by Durham, Birmingham and Bristol universities), at some institutions (e.g. Cardiff University and University of Gloucestershire) you can study the course as a BSc (which has a greater scientific focus). Modules vary from course to course but some examples include 'Gender, Culture and Society', 'Youth, Crime and Justice' and 'Psychology and Crime'.

A diverse range of careers is associated with a degree in Criminology including policing, law, forensic science, criminal psychology and social work.

Top tips to stand out from the crowd when applying:

- Keep up-to-date with relevant news and research
- Complete related work experience/volunteering
- Enter relevant competitions
- Wider reading
- Watching crime dramas/documentaries or listening to podcasts
- Complete a related EPQ in Y13

Good luck!

Mrs D Ryland | Head of Criminology

Reading list



Unit 1: Media Representations of Crime

- 'We'll All Be Murdered in Ours Beds: The Shocking History of Crime Reporting in Britain' by Duncan Campbell
- 'Folk Devils and Moral Panics' by Stanley Cohen
- 'Reporting Crime' by Philip Schlesinger and Howard Tumber

Unit 2: Criminological Theories

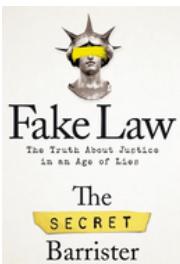
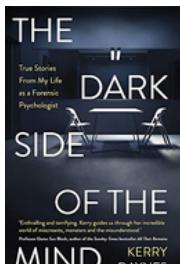
- 'A few Kind Words and a Loaded Gun' by Razor Smith
- 'Criminology: A Sociological Introduction' by Eamon Carrabine and others
- 'The Dark Side of the Mind: True Stories From My Life as a Forensic Psychologist' by Kerry Daynes

Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom

- 'Forensics' by Val McDermid
- 'Fake Law'/'Nothing But the Truth' by The Secret Barrister
- 'No Comment' by Jess McDonald
- 'In Black and White' by Alexandra Wilson
- 'Cause of Death: Memoirs of a Home Office Pathologist' by Dr Geoffrey Garrett and Andrew Nott
- 'Mindhunter: Inside the FBI's Elite Serial Crime Unit' by John E. Douglas and Mark Olshaker
- 'Mapping murder: The Secrets of Geographical Profiling' by David Canter
- 'The Surgeon' by Tess Gerritsen (fiction)

Unit 4: Crime and Punishment

- 'Behind these Doors' by Alex South
- 'Strangeways: A Prison Officer's Story' by Neil Samworth
- 'Big Dirty Money: Making White Collar Criminals Pay' by Jennifer Taub
- 'Trafficked Girl' by Zoe Patterson
- 'My Life With Murderers' by Dr David Wilson



Competitions



TRINITY
COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

Trinity College Cambridge | Essay Competition

The Robert Walker Prize has three objectives:

- to encourage students with an interest in Law to explore that interest by researching, considering and developing an argument about a legal topic of importance to modern society;
- to encourage those interested in Law to apply for a university course in Law; and
- to recognise the achievements of high-calibre students, from whatever background they may come.

Listen and Watch



Podcasts



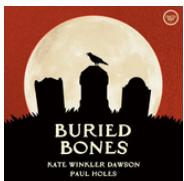
Serial

Probably the most well-known true crime podcast, Serial, was ranked number one for several weeks on iTunes. Each season unfolds one true crime story and the episodes look at the twists and turns of the case. The great thing about this podcast is the host, Sarah, has no idea how the story will conclude until she reaches the end along with the listeners.



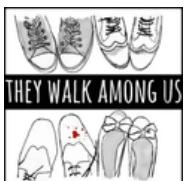
UK True Crime Podcast

Another UK based true crime podcast which posts weekly episodes. The focus with this podcast is to put a spotlight on the cases that have not received much attention or media coverage. The host also aims to show you different perspectives on the cases that you might not have already heard of.



Buried Bones - a historical true crime podcast with Kate Winkler Dawson and Paul Holes

On Buried Bones, journalist Kate Winkler Dawson and retired investigator Paul Holes dissect some of history's most compelling true crime cases from centuries ago. Together, they explore these very old cases through a 21st century lens. With their years of expertise and knowledge of modern forensics, they reflect on how far science has come and bring new insight to old mysteries.



They Walk Among Us

An award-winning podcast that focuses specifically on crimes committed in the UK. The host examines a range of crimes close to home, committed by ordinary people, some of which have even made the headlines.

Listen and Watch



Films/YouTube/TV



TV Dramas

Criminal Minds

A group of FBI profilers delve deeper into the most evil criminal minds to pinpoint the situations that trigger off the violence in them and try to stop them before they can strike.



Life on Mars

Combines elements of science fiction and police procedural, featuring an officer from the Greater Manchester Police, who travels back in time after being involved in a road accident.



Bad Girls

Portrayal of life in a women's prison, focusing on the inmates and staff's friendships and relationships, and the issues surrounding them.



Showtrial

Drama series following high profile murder cases through the eyes of the police, the public and the courts.



Silent Witness

A team of exceptional forensic pathologists and scientists investigate heinous crimes and use their skills to catch the people responsible.



CSI

A team of Crime Scene Investigators (CSI's) work with the Las Vegas Police Department (LVPD) to solve crimes by using advanced scientific methods and technology in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Code of a Killer

Code of a Killer is a three-part [1] British police drama television series which tells the true story of Alec Jeffreys' discovery of DNA fingerprinting

Listen and Watch



Films/YouTube/TV



TV Reality

Traffic Cops

On the road with the front-line, fighting crime and disorder on Britain's streets.



Inside Death Row With Trevor McDonald

Sir Trevor steps inside the notorious US prison, Indiana State to meet the men awaiting execution. What led them to commit their crimes & how do they cope with waiting to die?



Forensics: The Real CSI

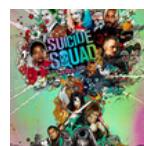
When every minute counts, cutting-edge forensic science exposes the truth and brings dangerous criminals to justice.



Films

Now You See Me

An elite FBI squad is caught in an intense game of cat and mouse against four of the world's greatest illusionists.



Suicide Squad

A secret government agency recruits some of the most dangerous incarcerated supervillains to form a defensive task force.



The Godfather

The aging patriarch of an organized crime dynasty transfers control of his clandestine empire to his reluctant son.



Murder on the Orient Express

When a murder occurs aboard the train on which he's travelling, celebrated Belgian detective Hercule Poirot is recruited to solve the case.



See How They Run

In the West End of 1950s London, plans for a movie version of a smash-hit play come to an abrupt halt after a pivotal member of the crew is murdered.

Listen and Watch



Social media

Institute of Criminology (Blog)

Get the latest news and updates from the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge University. Established in 1959 the Institute of Criminology has exerted, & continues to exert a strong influence on the development of the discipline.

@IThinkThereforeITeach

Enjoy summaries of key content and top tips from a real teacher of the WJEC specification.

Oxford Law (Blog)

This blog disseminates original research from around the world, first-hand accounts of border control, legal analysis and book reviews.

Crimbrary (Blog)

A resource for news, research, opinion and comment in the world of Criminology and Criminal Justice, brought to you by the Criminology Library, Centre for Criminology & Sociolegal Studies, University of Toronto.

Legal Cheek (TikTok)

The Legal Cheek offers a combination of news, analysis, career advice and insider insight on the leading law firms and chambers operating in the UK. You can get involved with Legal Cheek as a student ambassador or attend their law fairs and training conferences.

The Legal Diaries (Instagram)

A Keele Uni second year charts the ups and downs of her law degree.

Tutor2u (Facebook)

Useful resources to help with your study of Criminology (as well as other subjects).

UOG Social Science (TikTok)

All things Policing, Criminology, and Sociology at University of Gloucestershire.

The Met Police/Gloucestershire Constabulary

Various social media accounts. News on local and national crime delivered by the police in a factual manner.

Work Experience and Events



Criminology work experience isn't always easy to come by given the minimum age requirements often associated for work in related fields. However, there is a greater range of relevant opportunities on offer than perhaps you might expect and the school has some good local contacts.

Make sure you do your research and apply early before any placements get snapped up! Perhaps you can also spare some time in your schedule for regular volunteering to really make you stand out from the crowd?

Work Experience and Events



[Navigating the Path to Work Experience | Springpod](#)

This medium-sized blog serves as your comprehensive guide to securing those highly sought-after opportunities in the realm of criminology.



[Criminology University Taster | Springpod](#) If you're interested in crime, law, or the reality of justice in the UK, this is a must-watch!



[Police Cadets | Gloucestershire Constabulary](#)

Our Volunteer Police Cadet scheme provides exciting opportunities to develop new skills and self-confidence, while taking an active part in helping to deliver policing to the local communities.



[Gloucester Crown Court Listings](#) Gloucester Crown Court is an open court that accepts students visiting - it is highly recommended a student attends with an appropriate adult.



[Criminology University Taster | Springpod](#)

[The Prison System - Does it really work?](#) John looks at funding in UK prisons, compares that to Norway, then presents a budgeting activity for you to have a go at.



[Psychology Unveiled: Fields and History Virtual Work Experience](#) In this module you'll hear all about the work forensic psychologists do in the criminal justice system.



The Careers Team at Bournside deliver regular Inspire Breakfast Lectures. Open to students in Year 10 - 13, these business-focused breakfasts invite speakers from all corners of industry to share their professional experiences and valuable insights with Bournside students over breakfast; opening our eyes to the opportunities available across many industry sectors.

[Take a look at upcoming speakers and reserve your space here.](#)



