WJEC Diploma in Criminology

Vision statement- The Criminology department promotes its vision with all students and encourages them to explore the criminal justice system, allowing for insight into the process of conviction and the reasons as to why people commit crimes.

Intent- Through the Criminology Curriculum at Ridgewood School we enhance the students' understanding of human behaviour- drawing on a wide range of disciplines, including Biology, Psychology, Sociology and Law. It has been designed to offer exciting and interesting experiences that focus learning for students through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful context linked to the criminal justice system which helps students develop a desire to shape the legal system to counteract discrimination and inequality.
The course allows students to consider and understand how the use and application of their learning impacts on themselves, other individuals, society and the environment, which impacts on their own behaviour and conduct in UK society. Ultimately students will develop a critical and focused criminological mind. The course includes a mix of both internally assessed controlled assessments and externally assessed exams over the 2 years. The curriculum also aims to cultivate empathic citizens who can, and wish to, make a difference to society, and all of its sub-groups. The study of Criminology aims to equip students with the awareness that personal choices and life events determine the pathway of individuals.

Why study Criminology at The Sixth Form at Ridgewood?

- Level 3 Diploma is approved as an equivalent to one A level and carries UCAS points up to 56 for an A*
- It is accepted by most universities (including Russell Group) as an accredited qualification for entry
- If exams are not your main strength, this could be the right course for you as it involves 50% coursework and 50% exams
- You will study Criminal Psychology and Behaviour as well as Sociology and Criminal Justice, and delve into some of the world's most serious issues in an increasingly globalized society
- With the evolution of the internet and an ever-increasing population, job prospects in criminology are outstanding and this trend is expected to grow
- At Ridgewood, your Criminology teachers are enthusiastic about their subject, viewing it as a hobby as well as a vocation

What topics will I study in this subject?

Topic	What this means

Unit 1 Changing Awareness of Crime	The purpose of this unit is for learners to plan campaigns for change relating to crime. Knowing about the wide range of different crimes and the reasons people have for not reporting such crimes will provide an understanding of the complexity of behaviours and the social implications of such crimes and criminality. At the end of this unit, you will have gained skills to differentiate between myth and reality when it comes to crime and to recognise that common representations may be misleading and inaccurate. You will have gained the skills to understand the importance of changing public perceptions of crime. You will be able to use and assess a variety of methods used by agencies to raise awareness of crime so that it can be tackled effectively. You will have gained the skills to plan a campaign for change in relation to crime; for example to raise awareness, change attitudes or change reporting behaviour.
Unit 2 Criminological theories	The purpose of this unit is for learners to apply their understanding of the public perceptions of crime and campaigns for change studied in Unit 1 with criminological theories to examine how both are used to set policy. At the end of this unit you will have gained the skills to evaluate some criminological theories and know there are debates within the different theories. You will understand how changes in criminological theory have influenced policy. You will also have gained the skills to apply the theories to a specific crime or criminal in order to understand both the behaviour and the theory.
Unit 3 Crime scene to courtroom	Through this unit, learners develop the understanding and skills needed to examine information in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases. The criminal trial process involves many different people and agencies. Learning about the roles of these will give you an insight into what happens once a crime is detected and the process that leads to a verdict. There are strict rules as to how
	evidence is collected from a crime scene and also strict rules governing the giving of evidence in court; learning about these rules will allow you to review the trial process and assess whether the aims of the criminal justice system have been met. You may be familiar with the role of the jury in the Crown Court, but you may not be aware of the different factors that influence jury decision-making. By undertaking this unit, you will be able to assess the use of lay people in determining the fate of a suspect and evaluate the criminal trial process from crime scene to courtroom.
Unit 4 Crime and punishment	The purpose of this unit is for learners to develop skills in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the process of social control in delivering policy in practice. Through this unit, you will learn about the criminal justice system in England and Wales and how it operates to achieve social control. You will have gained an understanding of the organisations which are part of our system of social control and their effectiveness in achieving their objectives. As such, you will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of the process of social control in delivering policy in different contexts.

What skills will I need in this subject?

Skill	What this skill involves in this subject
Ability to work independently	The coursework element requires you to self-motivate, direct and organise your work with total independence once you have been taught the content of the units. Therefore, you will have to be able to stay focused and organised throughout the course whilst doing a lot of thinking for yourself.
Research skills	You will be required to carry out research and plan a practical campaign based on your findings. This means finding and interpreting information and data from previous campaigns relating to crime, analysing the usefulness of previous campaigns and then applying the principles of a good campaign to the creation of your own unique campaign. This will mean you will have to be determined and focused throughout the course.
Understanding and applying theory to novel situations	Once you have learned a variety of theories about crime and its causes, you will need to be able to apply the theories to novel situations. The exam requires you to read and interpret a scenario involving specific crime and deviance which you will then be expected to explain using your knowledge of theories about crime.

What will my lessons involve?

- For exam-based lessons you will learn a range of theories using textbooks and information provided by the teacher, as well as several online activities, specifically designed around your course content.
- Learn about and evaluate a number of case studies of crime reported by the media.
- Use your own knowledge and discussions with peers to construct short and long answers to questions about the topics and cases you have researched.
- Create materials for a campaign to increase awareness of a chosen crime, using media sites such as Vistaprint to aid in this.
- There will be a requirement for you to complete much of your work outside of lessons both before, in preparation for lessons and after, as follow-up consolidation of academic work or creation of materials.

What will my independent study involve?

- For Unit 1, you will be expected to research a variety of under-reported crimes and campaigns that have brought higher public awareness to these, such as domestic abuse.
- You will also need to be able to plan your own campaign and create materials, using a variety of web-based resources to support your campaign.

How will I be assessed?

Percentage exam assessment: 50%	Percentage coursework assessment: 50%

Assessment	Details of assessment
Unit 1 Changing awareness of crime Year One	Assessment is to complete two tasks in eight hours in controlled conditions in January. Tasks involve planning a campaign for change and designing materials to support that campaign, for example, a campaign logo, t-shirt, Facebook page, poster etc.
Unit 2 Criminological theories Year One	Assessment is a 90 minute e-examination • Total of 75 marks • Three questions on each paper • Short and extended answer questions, based on stimulus material and applied contexts • Each question will have an applied problem-solving scenario
Unit 3 Crime scene to courtroom Year Two	The Controlled Assessment for this unit involves completing a single task over eight hours. It covers the eleven Assessment Criteria (ACs) and you MUST address them all in your answers.
Unit 4 Crime and punishment Year Two	Assessment is a 90 minute examination • Total of 75 marks • Three questions on each paper

How do I know this is the right course for me?

- You will be required to spend a minimum of six hours per week studying outside of lessons to be successful in completing the Criminology course.
- The focus on current crime and criminal law means that this qualification requires you to be interested in keeping up with the news as well as changes happening currently relating to the Criminal Justice System. This will be your responsibility so please ensure you are sufficiently motivated towards this before choosing this course.
- This course works well with other qualifications including Psychology, Sociology, Law, Politics and English.