

EDUCATION EVOLVED

Criminology

Why is Criminology a popular subject at St Brendan's?

In Criminology, we research into and analyse who commits crimes, why people commit them, the impact these crimes can have, and how to prevent them. The aim of criminology is to determine the root causes of criminal behaviour and to develop effective and ethical means for addressing and preventing it. Criminology has a wide array of cross curricular links, where sociological, psychological, media and political factors combine to make a truly fascinating subject.

What is the average Criminology lesson like at St Brendan's?

The Criminology department are great believers in dynamic teaching and learning. The Criminology lessons at St Brendan's are guaranteed to be varied and informative, with group work, presentation tasks, computer research, quizzes, debate, and discussion a regular feature. As teachers, we want to ensure that our lessons reflect the passion and enthusiasm of the students.

What type of support will I get before my assessments?

The Criminology department works hard to ensure that the individual needs of learners are met. We pride ourselves on our ability to encourage students to pursue their aspirations and achieve their target grade or above. We offer individual support to students, as well as guided assessment feedback and timetabled drop-in sessions. Students are secure in the knowledge that they know what to expect and anticipate in both the internal and external assessments.

What do current students say about the subject?

- * 'Each lesson is slightly different. We get the chance to be independent and explore our own theories of criminality.'
- * 'I am really happy with my grade from 3Y1, I am looking forward to Unit 3 Crime Scene to Courtroom.'
- * 'I would say that I am a creative and independent thinker. The controlled assessment in Criminology gave me a chance to demonstrate my knowledge of Crime in an inventive way.'
- * 'I am so glad I picked Criminology. The lessons are very interesting, and we spend a lot of time studying current affairs and applying them to different aspects of the course.'

What are the class sizes like in Criminology?

Generally, our class sizes in Criminology are twenty-five students in the first year of the course. The volume of students generates healthy and productive debate & discussion. As a teacher, it is fascinating to witness students apply and implement Criminological theories within group and paired activities. We work hard to ensure that all students have a voice, that the individual needs and abilities of our students are recognised.

I would like to study Criminology at university. Do you have any helpful advice?

Criminology (or other courses titled Criminal Justice, and similar) are available in Bachelor's of Arts, and Bachelor's of Science degrees, depending on the university. Modules will also vary depending on the institution; it is a good idea for students to conduct a lot of research into the modules on offer before or during their degree course, to ensure that they are completing studies that they are interested in, as well as studying areas that will help employment opportunities.

