

BTEC Forensic Science

Btec National Award and Certificate in Applied Science
Examination Board: Edexcel
Teachers: Rob Harris, Paul Norman and Jonathan Newell
Head of Department: Jonathan Newell



This is a new course at Woking College.

Forensic Science is the use of scientific methods to assist the police and the courts in resolving legal issues, criminal or civil.

In criminal cases, forensic scientists are involved in the search for and examination of physical traces, which might be useful in establishing or excluding an association between someone suspected of committing a crime, and the scene of a crime.

Such traces include blood and other body fluids, hairs, textile fibres from clothing, paint or glass from road traffic accidents, or flammable substances which may have been used to start fires.

Work experience

As with all Btec courses here at Woking college you will also be required to undertake 2 weeks work experience in February immediately before half term.

Exams – There are NO Exams!!

But you will have a lot of course work.

The course has six compulsory core units:

- 1 Fundamentals of science
- 2 Working in the science industry
- 3 Scientific investigation
- 4 Scientific practical techniques
- 5 Perceptions of science
- * 6 Application of numbers for science technicians (half unit)

Together with six specialist units and one short half unit in Statistics to match the 'numbers' one above:

- *8 Statistics for science technicians

- 31 Criminology
- 32 Forensic evidence collection and analysis
- 33 Forensic photography
- 34 Criminal psychology
- 35 Forensic psychology
- 38 Traffic accident investigation

You will build up your own portfolio of work starting immediately. The first unit will be over, completed and in the bag by October half term!

There will be opportunities to visit research laboratories and to consider real-life crime scenes.

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How will you learn?

The course enables students to use a variety of learning styles to build up your body of knowledge and understanding of all areas of science.

Working independently and with others in your learning community group you will be involved in:

Research skills, books, newspapers, journals and internet.
Presentation skills
Practical skills
Photographic skills

You will develop experimental and communication skills as well as have opportunities for taking notes from teacher led discussions and presentations, textbooks, group research on the Internet, video or DVD and CD ROMs as well as the many practical activities to work with others, research topics and make presentations.

Where does the course lead?

Forensic science BTEC is a demanding but enjoyable and rewarding subject and an ideal subject to study to broaden an academic programme and keep options open.

The majority of students will progress to university to study a whole variety of degrees in Forensic Science, Analytical Chemistry, any field of Biosciences, analytical science and social science-based courses. To maximise your opportunity to enter for a degree in forensic science you should also study AS Chemistry.

Entry Requirements

5C's at GCSE.

Grade C or above in Science and Maths and also in Additional Science or Chemistry.

Communication is also important, so you will be able to communicate effectively during practical sessions, as well as being able to research and critically think about problems.

