

# FORENSIC SCIENCE

at BCoT

## Forensic Science at BCoT

The BTEC Level 2 and 3 Diploma in Applied Science (Forensic Science) has been running successfully at BCoT for five years.

We are very pleased with the achievements of our students, both young and slightly older who have completed the course, progressing to higher education or related employment.

Indeed one of our students has been interviewed at Selwyn College, Cambridge. At the time of writing the student is waiting for confirmation of a place.

Some of our first group of BCoT Forensic students have just graduated from various universities in subjects ranging from Forensic Science/ Psychology to Law. Each year the groups have developed their crime scene skills culminating in a full scale examination of a mock crime scene in the summer term. They have enjoyed a varied programme of visits to such places as the Crown Courts, Syngenta Laboratories, Police Fingerprint Laboratories and heard speakers from the Police, Crime Prevention, and the Fire Service.

We look forward to continued success over the next five years and beyond.

## Simulated Crime Scene Investigation

Forensic science students transformed the Irish Centre in Basingstoke into three mock crime scenes.

Second year Level 3 Forensic Science students created three scenarios for groups of first years to investigate. Scenes included a drug related murder, a car accident (where the driver had left the scene) and a hit and run murder where students recreated a section of remote lane complete with soil, grass and a mannequin. Level 2 students played the role of victims assisted by Beauty Therapy students who provided realistic make-up for the crime scene.

The forensic investigations took place over four days. Two days were spent at the crime scenes where students were responsible for securing their areas, gathering and analysing their evidence, including different types of fingerprinting, and making casts. Further analyses of the evidence including chemical analysis, microscopy and blood analysis, took place in the science laboratories at BCoT.

Afterwards they interviewed the witnesses and the accused, before making an arrest. The following week students participated in a mock trial where they presented their witness statements and were cross-examined about their evidence.



- ✓ Do you enjoy analysing evidence?
- ✓ Do you like solving puzzles?
- ✓ Do you have an enquiring mind?

## Forensics visit Basingstoke Fire Station

Forensic Science students spent two afternoons at Basingstoke Fire Station. As well as looking at the various types of equipment used by the fire service, the second year students watched a film which demonstrated the types of incidents the service have to deal with. They were also shown a series of physical tests that individuals have to undergo when applying to become a fire fighter.

The students also had the opportunity to look in the fire house and experience what it might be like to be in an enclosed fire scene, as well as watching the roof being cut off a car.

Fire Investigation and Traffic Accident Investigation are modules of the Forensic Science National Diploma.



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# FORENSIC SCIENCE COURSES @ BCoT



## Forensic Students visit Crown Courts

Forensic science students visited the Crown Courts in Winchester, as part of their induction week activities.

First year BTEC Level 2 Diploma Applied Science (Forensic Science) students were shown round one of the courtrooms. Afterwards they sat in the press and witness boxes and the dock, to listen to an extremely informative talk from a member of the court staff, who explained how the courts work, what cases were on that day and which famous cases had been tried there in the past.

The students then watched proceedings from the Public Galleries and saw part of a murder trial, a drug trial and an assault trial, as well as routine matters such as breaches in probation.

After lunch there was time to explore Winchester, before returning to college. Everyone agreed that they had had an interesting and enjoyable trip.

## Applied Science BTEC Level 2 Diploma – 1 Year

Course Code: HF25

This one year course is designed to give you a strong foundation to progress onto our Forensic Science Level 3 course or into employment/apprenticeship. You will study a range of units including biological systems, forensic science, environmental science and science in medicine. There is a large element of practical work on this course, allowing you to put into practice what you have learnt. You will have the opportunity to go on trips to support your learning.

### Entry Requirements

4 GCSEs at grade D or above, including two of either Science, Maths or English. Mature students will be considered on an individual basis.

### Method of assessment

Continuous assessment including specialist projects.

### Progression

Forensic Science BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma or employment in a related area.

## Forensic Science BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma – 2 Years

Course Code: HF24

This two year course is the equivalent of 3 A levels and can take you onto University or into employment/ apprenticeship. If the possibility of helping criminal investigations through the detailed scientific examination of forensic evidence excites you then this course could be for you. You will study a variety of units including; forensic psychology, fire and accident investigation, forensic media and crime and perceptions of science. Visits and external speakers are an important part of the course.

### Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs grade A-C (to include English and preferably Maths and Science) or Applied Science BTEC Level 2 Diploma (merit). Mature students will be considered on an individual basis.

### Method of assessment

The course is continuously assessed with some external assessment (this may include an Integrated Vocational Assignment) and testing through assignments, projects and case studies. Students will develop a responsible and cooperative approach to working on their own and in groups. The course uses practical activities, presentations and involvement with local business wherever possible.

### Progression

Higher Education (typically a degree or HND in Forensic Science, Biological Science, Crime Scene Science, Forensic Psychology or Criminology); employment in a related area or laboratory.

## What next?

Students from Forensic Science courses recently went on to:

- University of Reading  
*Biological Science*
- Solent University, Southampton  
*Criminology*
- University of Portsmouth  
*Forensic Biology and Biomolecular Science*  
*Forensic Biology and Biochemistry*
- Bournemouth University  
*Forensic Archaeology*  
*Forensic and Crime Scene Investigation Sciences*  
*Law and Taxation*
- Thames Valley University  
*Criminology with Substance Use and Misuse*
- University of Hertfordshire  
*Paramedic Science*
- Staffordshire University  
*Forensic Science*
- University of Wales  
*Forensic Computing*
- University of Glamorgan  
*Biomedical Science and Forensic Toxicology*

## Employment as:

- School technicians and laboratory assistants or work for AWE and the Police.