

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS ABOUT TO STUDY A LEVEL LAW

The new, reformed A level Law course includes modules in criminal law, tort law and contract law.

To study Law, you should have gained grade A or B/ level 6 in English Language, English Literature, or another essay writing subject. Law requires good analytical and problem solving skills. Expectations will be high; we have had a number of target D students who have achieved a grade 'A' at A level. Good grades can be achieved through hard work and Law is very much the kind of subject where you get out of it what you put in.

Law combines very well with a wide variety of other A level subjects, and is an excellent subject for those considering the study of Law at a higher level, but also for those who simply wish to choose it as an additional subject. Law A level is not just for lawyers.

There will be plenty of extra-curricular events for you to take part in, including the Mock Trial Competition (twice national finalists in recent years), Primary Law with local primary school children, court visits to the Magistrates' and Crown Courts in Liverpool and work placement opportunities.

At this stage you should be thinking about how the justice system works in this country. In terms of research, it is very easy to gain an insight into law and justice, so prior to commencing the course it is recommended that you do the following –

- Watch the news daily – BBC news will provide good, impartial information. When you see something that interests you, follow that up with internet research.
- Newspapers can also be useful, but remember that journalism can present a particular angle on a story, or may involve for instance political bias which will depend on the newspaper you have selected. You can of course access newspapers online also, e.g. www.thetimes.co.uk
- Information about the justice system can also be found on line, for instance – 'You be the Judge' which can be found at [www. http://ybtj.justice.gov.uk](http://ybtj.justice.gov.uk)
- The Hillsborough disaster continues to be in the headlines and the thirty year fight for justice by campaigners seems finally to be producing results in civil law. If this is the sort of event you know little about, then now is the time to find out!
- (We deal with a number of cases which arose from incidents that day during the A level course). <http://hillsboroughinquests.independent.gov.uk/>
- An emotional documentary on Hillsborough you can watch. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nfb5iy9U7KI>
- <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/hillsborough-trial-verdict-david-duckenfield-not-guilty-why-prosecution-a8840691.html>
- Google searches about the criminal and civil courts and particular cases of interest will lead you to a variety of interesting sites.
- You will be studying areas of both criminal law and civil law, it is important for you to know the difference between the two.
- <https://www.thelawyerportal.com/blog/civil-law-vs-criminal-law-what-you-need-to-know/>
- Here is a link to the specification detailing what you will be studying.
- <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/315216-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-law-h415.pdf>
- If you would like to do some additional reading on the course content this site covers similar topics from older specifications <http://alevellaw.doomby.com/>