



The Sutton Academy

# BTEC LEVEL 3 FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

## WHAT DO I NEED TO STUDY THIS COURSE?

The entry requirements for this course are 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above including Maths and English Language.

## IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

This course is for you if you are interested in the application of science within the field of Forensics. The course provides you with a sound knowledge of how scientific methods, techniques and theories can be used within forensic investigations, and allows you to explore a challenging area of applied science. You will develop into a professional with the scientific skills to work within areas such as crime scene investigation, forensic science and analytical related laboratory areas.

## WHERE WILL THIS COURSE TAKE ME?

The course gives you the professional skills needed to become a police Crime Scene Investigator or a Forensic Science Officer in a forensics laboratory. The course is the equivalent of 1.5 A-Levels, and so allows for progression to university in a range of science-related subjects. The course can also be included within assortment of BTEC's and A-levels to gain entry to other industries or qualifications.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Year 1: Three mandatory units

Unit 1: Principles and application in Science

Learners will study the principles of Biology, Chemistry and physics at level 3. The biological element will include the levels of organisation within living organisms, the roles and functions of organs and organ systems. The chemical element will include the study of the chemical structure and properties of elements, compounds and mixtures. The Physical element will include the study of the physical properties of waves and their application to analyse evidence.

Unit 2: Scientific skills, procedures and methods

Learners will study a range of scientific procedures including; chromatography, calorimetry, colorimetry, titrations and how they can be applied to forensic investigations.

Unit 4: Forensic investigation Procedures in Practice

Learners will study the practices and procedures used to survey a crime scene and collect evidence. This will include the role of SOCO's, common approach pathways, evidence collection strategies.

Year 2: Three units are studied. One is mandatory and the two will be selected from a range of options linked to learner's destinations

Mandatory unit 3 scientific investigation procedures  
Learners will complete a range of scientific investigations linked to diffusion, enzymes, rates of reaction, resistance and ecology. With the aim of developing scientific investigation skills.

Optional units selected from the list below

|    |                                       |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 8  | Physiology of Human Body Systems      |
| 9  | Environmental Forensics               |
| 10 | Forensic Fire Investigation           |
| 11 | Forensic Photography                  |
| 13 | Forensic Genetics                     |
| 14 | Forensic Anthropology and Archaeology |
| 15 | Practical Chemical Analysis           |

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: Principles and application in Science will be assessed using a written form examination.

Unit 2 and unit 4: Scientific skills, procedures and methods and Forensic investigation Procedures in Practice will be assessed by the completion of three internally set and marked assignments. The assignments will also externally verified by EDEXCEL.

Unit 3: Scientific investigation procedures, is assessed using a practical investigation set by EDEXCEL and completed under exam conditions.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

See Mrs Booth