

# Science

## BTEC National Level 3 Forensic & Criminal Investigation Foundation Diploma

**Subject** Applied Science with Forensics

**Exam Board** Edexcel

**Specification Numbers** 603/0251/3

**Teachers Responsible** Ms Riddell/Mr Hollands/Miss Gillanders

**Introduction** Forensic Science is the more vocational course the Science department run at Level 3 and is the equivalent of 1.5 A-Levels. It is largely coursework based with a small examined element. Students will spend the first year getting to grips with a wide range of concepts from the separate Science A-Levels before focussing on the skills needed in the Forensics industry in Year 13.

**Aims of the Course** The aim of the course is to develop the skills, knowledge and techniques that will allow students to move on to a career in the sciences if they so wish. It will also develop the students' organisational and communication skills with a mixture of externally assessed and internally verified tasks. They will cover the following topics:

Core Units:

- Principles and Applications of Science
- Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques
- Science Investigation Skills
- Forensic Investigation in Procedures in Practice

Two Specialist Units which may include:

- Environmental Forensics
- Forensic Fire Investigation
- Forensic Traffic Collision Investigation
- Forensic Photography
- Forensic Genetics Assignment
- Forensic Anthropology and Archaeology

**How You Are Assessed** The course is largely coursework with a small externally examined section:  
Unit 1 – 1 hour and 30 minute exam set and marked by Pearson  
Unit 2 – Assignment set and marked internally  
Unit 3 – Task set and examined externally  
Unit 4 – Assignment set and marked internally  
Specialist Units – Assignment set and marked internally

**Links to Future Careers** The course is designed for learners who are interested in Forensic and Criminal Investigation with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses. It is equivalent to one and a half A-Levels and works well taken in combination with other A-Levels or BTEC courses.

### Entry Requirement

Grades 4-4 in GCSE Combined Science, Grade 4 in Maths, Grade 4 in English