

Western College Forensic Science Event: raising aspiration to progress to Further Education

The Activity

The Forensics event was held once a week, for six weeks and was open to selected Year 9 students from Weston schools. The event aimed at increasing the aspirations of the students by giving them a hands on experience of forensic science. The first week started with a clip from CSI being shown which provided an excellent hook to capture the student's interest. Then the students were lead to a staged crime scene and were given the task of collecting evidence which would then be used in subsequent sessions. Each week focused on a different aspect of forensic science including:

- Investigating crime scenes
- Blood testing
- DNA
- Chromatography
- Fibre testing



All of the sessions involved hands on activities which culminated in the final session where students had to present their findings to a jury made up of teachers and a community police officer.

How did it go?

The event was fantastic! The presentations that the students gave were, without exception, of a very high standard and demonstrated high levels of learning and hard work from the students. One of the skills that students developed was teamwork. All students worked in groups consisting of members drawn from different schools, so they were forced to meet and work with total strangers. At first they were very quiet, but by the end of the second week they were all happily working with their new colleagues. After the final session, students completed an evaluation questionnaire. Comments from students included:

- "Can we do this again?"
- "I love my team!"
- "Thank you for this opportunity."
- "I want to do forensics."
- "Brill."
- "My new knowledge of forensic science will help me in my science lessons."
- "I enjoyed making new friends."



