



## Curriculum Detail: Law

Law is available as a study option for Year 10 students (and Year 11 students from September 2015).

Students are introduced to the definition of law and the public, private, civil and criminal classifications. An overview of the meaning of law is given along with the necessity for a reliable legal system in a free society. The differences between public (criminal, constitutional and administrative) law and private (contract, tort and family) law are discussed along with the process by which an Act of Parliament becomes law, including Green and White Papers and the processing of Public Bills.

An overview of how the system of judicial precedent operates through the hierarchy of courts is offered and students are given an outline of law reports and the binding authority of *ratio decidendi* as well as the persuasive authority of *obiter dicta*. Students learn about the roles of judges and jury in trying indictable offences in the Crown Court, including offences triable either-way, and look at post-trial events and processes such as sentencing and appeals.

The County Court pre-trial is examined via an overview of negotiation, sources of legal advice and civil claim funding (including getting legal help, the work of Citizens Advice Bureaux, private finance, representation, insurance, conditional fees and bringing a claim for damages). Students learn about trials, including the differences between a small claim and a fast track hearing in the County Court; post-trial events and processes including civil remedies (damages and injunctions) and appeals are also examined.

The functions and roles of lay people and legal professionals are discussed and students gain an understanding of the role of the jury in criminal and civil cases. Jury qualification, selection, disqualification and discharge are looked at along with the deferral of service. The selection and appointment of lay magistrates and their roles in criminal, civil, administrative and appeal cases is examined as well as the training and work of solicitors and barristers. Students gain an understanding of the role of the judge in civil, criminal and appeal cases and the types of judges who sit in different courts.