

A Residential Enrichment Event For Year 10 Scientists

CSI – CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS

The South-East Partnership organised a residential science activity at Sutton Valence Independent School, near Maidstone. Pupils from schools all over the South East came to Sutton Valence for a thrilling event. The pupils from Kent enjoyed meeting pupils from Sussex, Surrey, Medway and Brighton and Hove. They enjoyed working together, attending social events in the evening and then retiring to the school's boarding houses. All the pupils attending were projected A* in science at G.C.S.E. These very able scientists worked well together and there was a dynamic energy to their thirst for knowledge. On arrival, pupils were taken to a crime scene that had been staged on site. They were given a synopsis of the possible suspects and had time to make detailed notes of the scene –

“What could the white powder possibly be?”

“What were those red marks on the floor?”

“Was that a real gun?”

There then followed sessions in physics, chemistry and biology laboratories, testing the white powder, testing DNA, fingerprinting, mechanics and ballistics.

The evenings were spent in recreational activities, in the Sports Hall and the Games Room. Also, there was time to begin to draw conclusions from the tests undertaken.

In addition there were two talks:-

1. Writing Crime Novels, by a local author.
2. A presentation by a Crime Scene Investigator.



It was a very successful event and some pupils made the correct deduction as to the identity of the culprit.

Evaluation showed very positive feedback of the event. Pupils wanted to stay longer to do more work and also asked for a module on the psychology of crime.

Enrichment events are available on Saturdays, weekends and during holidays. Kent pupils have enjoyed participating in:-



To take part in similar events log onto
The Regional Website - www.canterbury.ac.uk/gifted

“GROWING SCIENTISTS”

Following the success of the Crime Scene Investigation event, a group of Maidstone Secondary Schools has formed a “Science Partnership” with Sutton Valence Independent School. The purpose is to increase the number of Gifted and Talented young people opting to study science, to increase the number opting for science A Level and to strengthen capacity in the teaching of science across the partnership. This will link into the Government’s Science and Innovation Framework.

The value of state and Independent schools working closely together provides benefits and opportunities for all pupils. Other such partnerships are thriving across Kent.

