

Urmston Grammar School



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RE: Y13 Shrewsbury Prison Trip

November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

The Social Sciences Department will be running a trip on **Thursday 12th December** to Shrewsbury Prison (a previous Category B/C prison that closed in 2013) as part of our study into Crime and Deviance.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain a unique insight into prison life. The day involves a tour of the establishment and the sites history. Students will meet an ex prison officer who will give them an insight into prison life and working in a prison, linking their tour closely to our exam specification. Whilst visiting the prison students will have the opportunity to partake in a ‘closed cell’ escape room type experience, which involves entering cells and having the doors locked behind them, to fully experience what it would have been like for a prisoner. Students can omit this activity if they do not feel comfortable.

In line with our recent study of the media portrayal of crime Sociology, students will also take part in the “**Media Portrayal of the Kray Twins**” workshop to critically examine how the media influences public perception of crime and criminals. Focusing on the infamous Kray twins, students will engage in discussions about the “glamorous” portrayal of the Krays as legends, contrasting this image with the reality of their criminal activities. The activity challenges students to consider the role of media in shaping societal attitudes towards crime, punishment, and rehabilitation. Through group work and critical analysis, students will also draw parallels between the media’s portrayal of the Krays and modern-day depictions of gangs, reflecting on the impact of these portrayals on society’s views on justice. The learning outcomes from this workshop directly link to our specification and we will follow up on many of the themes covered in the workshop when we are back in school.

We will be travelling to Shrewsbury by coach leaving school at 8am and returning approximately 4.30pm. Students should bring a packed lunch with them as we will have a lunch break whilst at the prison.

The cost of the trip is £45 but this is on the assumption that at least 42 students attend. If we find the level of interest falls below this threshold we will inform you if there will be a change to our arrangements. Our preferred method of payment is parent pay which can be accessed through the school website. We need to confirm places as soon as possible and would therefore be grateful if payments could be made by **Wednesday 27th November**. If there are any difficulties with making this payment by this date, please do let us know.

Your sincerely

Mrs N Kinder
Head of Sociology