The power of the lawyer is in the uncertainty of the law.

Jeremy Bentham
Law plays a vital role in society. The law helps define a society’s values and also provides a means to solve problems and disputes without resorting to violence. A Level Law enables you to further explore the relationship between Law, Society and the Individual.

What will the course involve and how is it organised?

It is unlikely that you will have studied Law before, but don’t worry; the course is designed to remove any feelings of uncertainty and confusion that may arise from taking a new subject.

When you begin A Level Law you will be introduced to the English Legal System as a whole. This will involve looking at how Law is made, who can make Law and how Judges interpret Statutes. Here you will also study the role of legal personnel including barristers and solicitors as well as the role lay people have in the Law (i.e. Juries and Magistrates).

You will study both the theory and application of Criminal Law. This will involve looking at the fatal offences of murder, voluntary manslaughter and involuntary manslaughter and non-fatal offences of assault, battery, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, wounding and grievous bodily harm with intent. You will also look at property offences, including theft and robbery as well as the capacity defences of insanity and intoxication, the necessity defences of self defence, duress, and duress of circumstances and the preliminary offences of attempt.

In Tort Law you will study liability in negligence for injury to people and damage to property, occupiers’ liability, vicarious liability and you will consider any defences.

You will also be asked to look at the Law of Contract.

The course will be assessed by examination. There is no coursework.

How will I be assessed?

There are 3 x 2 hour exams at the end of the second year.

What will this course prepare me for and where will it lead?

The course encourages you to develop the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems by applying rules and to develop the ability to communicate arguments and conclusions clearly and succinctly. It will help you substantiate arguments and develop an enquiring and critical mind. As such, Law at Carmel provides an excellent background for university and careers not only in law, but also in journalism, local and central government, public relations, teaching and a range of management and business areas.

Many of our students go on to study Law at the top universities including Oxford, Cambridge and Durham.

What support will I receive?

At Carmel we encourage you to develop as an independent learner. This does not mean however that help is not available. We are committed to supporting all our learners to achieve their personal best. A range of support materials is available both to simplify difficult concepts, and to extend your learning so you should never be without the appropriate support!

What is the department like?

Law is an established and thriving department, with around 200 students. Law is taught in well resourced student bases. The department has its own VLE site to assist student study. Students spend a lot of their free time in the Law department participating in enrichment activities and tutorials. Links have been forged with firms of solicitors, barristers chambers and local law enforcement agencies through the community involvement projects, legal professionals and courts.
Vocational Programme

The Law Department has set up a programme where students are invited to apply for a placement at a Solicitor's firm or Barristers' Chambers for a period of 3-5 days. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students as not only does it give them links to Law firms, and develops their employability skills, it also helps them when applying to study at university.

How can I enrich my Law studies?

Law is such a dynamic subject that you will have many opportunities to enrich your studies such as visiting the Crown Courts in Liverpool and the Houses of Parliament at Westminster in London. Other activities may include applying for a place on the Law Vocational Programme or entering the National Bar Mock Trial Competition. Students over the last few years have also had the opportunity to take a trip to New York in conjunction with the English, Media and Film Departments. Students will also be able to attend talks in college from Solicitors, Barristers and universities.

How successful are Carmel’s Law students?

The answer to this question is a simple one, VERY! Since the Law department was established in 2000, academic excellence has been at the core of the department’s vision. Each year our students achieve significantly above the national average across all grade boundaries.

Almost all of our Lawyers gained entry to their first choice of university and many have decided to develop their study of Law further either through Higher Education or Vocational Training.

My experience at Carmel has been nothing but pleasurable; alongside varying social opportunities comes the college's strong academic ethos.

By studying Law, I have gained a range of analytical and critical thinking skills through class discussions and challenging extra-curricular Law debates. Upon application to Carmel's Law Vocational Scheme, I was offered a week’s work experience with international firm, Eversheds Sutherlands, followed up with experience in court shadowing a Solicitor.

My application to study Law at the University of Cambridge was guided by the Law department and supported through multiple mock interviews, personal statement ‘coaching’ and high quality teaching. However, I will be studying Law with European Studies at the University of Leeds in September, spending a year in Italy; a tough decision which was supported by the department.

I have been given the practicability to pursue a career as a Solicitor or Barrister, via a highly academic and engaging course, combined with a friendly environment and approachable tutors.

Adam Smith
St Edmund Arrowsmith, Ashton
Studying: Law, English Literature, History, EPQ

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Ten Reasons to choose Law at Carmel

1. Law is relevant to all aspects of everyday life. At Carmel, real life scenarios are used to contextualise complex issues.
2. Improves critical thinking skills. At Carmel we encourage you to challenge the validity of the law and its institutions.
3. Improves problem solving skills. The modules we study at Carmel focus on problem solving skills from identification of offences, through to sentencing. Problem solving skills are required in every aspect of life and can be transferred to any other subject.
4. Knowledge of how and why law changes is useful background knowledge for a whole range of subjects including Psychology, Sociology, History, Business and Politics. We encourage cross curricular links and encourage learners to bring knowledge from other subjects into their work.
5. Improves communication skills. All lawyers need to be able to formulate a strong argument. At Carmel, we encourage you to take part in many debates, presentations and role plays to develop your ability to ‘think on your feet’.
6. Learning not to take everything at face value is a useful skill. We encourage you to develop analytical skills by questioning decisions in cases, and developing a ‘friendly critical eye’.
7. In many situations it helps to be able to distinguish the important issues from the unimportant issues, especially when debating or presenting an argument.
8. Knowledge of current affairs is developed by reference to issues reported in the news. We encourage you to keep a legal journal recording articles from the Times Law Reports each Tuesday.
9. Going to court is not just an activity for offenders and lawyers, but an activity for our Carmel learners. At Carmel, we encourage you to take part in the National Bar Mock Trial Competition, where you could give evidence or act as a Barrister in the Crown Court.
10. To study Law at university you do not need A Level Law – BUT IT HELPS.

What are the entry requirements for this course?
You will need grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

Do universities accept Law A Level? I have been told that they don’t!
This is a common question and the simple answer is YES they do! All universities accept Law A Level, in fact some prefer you to have it. A Level Law is not offered in all Sixth Form Colleges/ Schools. They do not require you to have Law A Level, but it can't be denied, it helps!

What subjects should I choose to complement Law?
It links particularly well with English, Psychology, Business Studies, Sociology, Politics and History. However, through Law’s literate and logical aspects, it complements virtually any subject.