



# Shepton Mallet Prison



**Education Behind Bars**



# Welcome to Education Behind Bars at Shepton Mallet Prison

Take your students  
on a school visit  
they'll never forget

Developed by specialists in education and history, the **Education Behind Bars Programme** offers a unique, immersive learning experience. Aligned with the national curriculum, it engages students with thought-provoking activities that extend learning beyond the classroom.

We provide comprehensive resources for both students and teachers, ensuring the educational impact lasts well beyond the visit. The programme includes three core elements: a **Guided Tour**, an **Educational Activity**, and a **Self-Guided Discovery**. Each component is expertly delivered by our trained guides and facilitators.

This booklet highlights some of the options available to education groups. More information can be found on our website [sheptonmalletprison.com/education](https://sheptonmalletprison.com/education)

Get in touch at [schools@sheptonmalletprison.com](mailto:schools@sheptonmalletprison.com)  
or 01749 681862





## Guided Tour

This tour provides a foundation of how prison life has evolved, highlighting both historical and modern practices. This engaging experience is designed to provoke thought and discussion, laying the groundwork for further learning and exploration in the subsequent activities.

## Educational Activity

Students are challenged to reflect on the material and draw connections between historical events and contemporary issues, making the learning experience both relevant and impactful.

## Self-Guided Discovery

The Self-Guided Discovery encourages curiosity and engagement but also allows students to explore areas of personal interest, making their educational experience more personalised and memorable.



## Key Stage 2 – Victorian Prison Life 1865

Step into the shoes of a Victorian prisoner and ignite imaginations through an unforgettable, immersive experience.



### Educational Activity

The educational activity Victorian Prison Life introduces students to the story of Cornelius Minty, a real prisoner from 1865. Through this case study, students learn about life in a Victorian prison, including the tough conditions and hard labour that prisoners endured.

The activity helps students understand what life was like in the past and why people were sent to prison. It encourages them to think about how life has changed since then, making history more relatable and engaging for young learners.

## Learning Outcomes

This educational activity is based upon a case study of Cornelius Minty who was imprisoned in Shepton Mallet Gaol in 1865. His crimes and life are linked to poverty, prison, workhouse, hunger, and hard labour.

This activity is suitable for Key Stage 2.

Upon completing this education activity students will be able to:

- Describe the main causes of crime in Victorian England
- Describe the different types of punishment and how prisons came to be built
- Describe different types of hard labour
- Describe how it would have felt to be a prisoner in the 19th Century



## Key Stage 3 - The Punishment Should Fit the Crime

Explore the evolution of crime and punishment, dive into history to understand how society's views have shaped the justice system today



### Educational Activity

The educational activity, The Punishment Should Fit the Crime, challenges students to explore the evolution of crime and punishment over the centuries. This interactive session encourages students to reflect on the changing legal and societal attitudes towards various crime.

Through group discussions, students will match historical and contemporary crimes to their respective punishments. This activity develops students' critical thinking and analytical skills while highlighting the importance of reform, rehabilitation, and deterrents, as well as how society's approach to justice has evolved.

### Learning Outcomes

This educational activity is to encourage students to reflect upon how crime and punishment has changed over the years within prison.

This activity is suitable for Key Stage 3.

Upon completing this education activity students will be able to:

- Understand the meaning of key words, such as deterrent and rehabilitation
- Understand how the nature of crimes and associated punishments have changed over the centuries
- Describe how patterns of social trends, attitudes in society, individuals as well as institutions (religion, science, technology) impact how crime and punishment have changed
- Understand changing definitions of crime over the last 400 years





## Key Stage 4 – Capital Punishment

Explore justice through history and debate the past as you unpack the complexities of capital punishment in the real-life case of Harry Dainton.



### Educational Activity

The educational activity delves into the compelling case of Harry Dainton, who was executed at Shepton Mallet Prison in 1891 for the murder of his wife. This thought-provoking session invites students to explore the complex issues surrounding capital punishment. By analysing historical documentation and newspaper cuttings, students gain insight into the case and the societal context of the time.

Students will discuss key questions, such as: Did Harry deserve the death penalty? What happened to his children? How might a similar case be handled in today's legal system?

This session is designed to develop students' critical thinking and debating skills, while also helping them understand key concepts such as deterrent, reformation, retribution, and protection.

## Learning Outcomes

This educational activity is a case study of Harry Dainton, who was executed at Shepton Mallet Prison in 1891 for the murder of his wife. Students are informed of the case history and will read supporting documentation. The purpose of this exercise is to start a discussion on the pros and cons of capital punishment.

This activity is suitable for Key Stage 4.

Upon completing this education activity students will be able to:

- Using a case study, debate the pros and cons of the Death Penalty (capital punishment)
- Debate the use of corporal punishment
- Describe the meaning of four key words: Deterrent, Reformation, Retribution and Protection
- Understood alternatives to Prison and how they are used in a modern society (parole, court fines, community service orders, electronic tagging and probation)





## Key Stage 5 & University - Media Portrayal of the Kray Twins

Explore how the media glamorises crime through the Kray twins, contrasting legend with reality and examining its powerful influence on society's views of justice.



### Educational Activity

The Key Stage 5 activity, Media Portrayal of the Kray Twins, invites students 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 and justice.

### Learning Outcomes

This educational activity will consider the case of The Krays, both of whom were imprisoned at Shepton Mallet Prison in 1952. Reflecting upon how the media has portrayed the Krays students are asked to consider the 'glamorous' depiction of the Krays as legends verses the actual crimes they were imprisoned for, and what part the media has in altering perception of people and society. The case study asks the students to consider modern day depiction of gangs in the media and to compare.

This activity is suitable for Key Stage 5 & University.

Upon completing this education activity students will be able to:

- Debate how the media can influence how people and society think about crime and punishment
- Understand the role the media plays in public perception about certain types of crime and the impact of public perception on punishment, reform, and rehabilitation
- Consider how the media can misrepresent the nature of crime from the 1960's and the era of the Krays up to modern day and 'county lines'.





## Resource Pack

Every student participating in the Education Behind Bars programme receives a comprehensive **Education Pack**. This pack includes an **Educational Activity** sheet, an **Activity Booklet** tailored to their Key Stage, a **Site Map** to guide their Self-Guided Discovery, and a **Certificate of Completion** to commemorate their visit.

These resources are designed to extend learning beyond the visit, offering students the tools they need to reflect on their experiences.





## Itinerary

Your visit to Shepton Mallet Prison is carefully structured to maximise educational value while keeping students engaged throughout the day. The itinerary is designed to provide a comprehensive, immersive experience that brings history to life.



- Arrival (20 minutes)
- Guided Tour (1 hour)
- Educational Activity (45 Minutes)
- Self-Guided Discovery (45 Minutes)
- Conclusion and Departure (10 Minutes)
- Lunch (Optional)

A standard visit lasts approximately 3 hours, ensuring a well-rounded educational experience that is both engaging and informative. This structure ensures your students leave with a deeper understanding of history and the workings of the penal system.

We are also happy to tailor the itinerary to meet your specific needs, including arranging lunch from our onsite café if required.





"Yr12 and 13 Criminology students enjoyed their day as 'prisoners' in Shepton Mallet Prison.

Fascinating day hearing about the history, going in the cells, seeing the execution areas and understanding how prison systems worked!"

Treorchy Comprehensive School

"Thank you so much for having us we had a wonderful day. The organisation was perfect and you were so flexible. Thank you for incorporating Travel and History into the talk. The tour was perfect for our History GCSE and really brought learning to life for our students.

Will be in touch soon with a date for next year"

King Arthurs School

## Programme Partners



## Programme Locations



Shepton Mallet Prison



Shrewsbury Prison



Peterhead Prison