



Area News - Sociology

What have we been up to?

This year has been an exciting and enriching one for our Sociology students, with many opportunities to apply classroom learning to real world contexts. Recently, students have been putting their research methods knowledge into practice by carrying out independent projects investigating the question: “**Is Generation Z sensible?**” They collected and analysed their own data before presenting their findings in professional research posters. We were also pleased to welcome a social researcher from the **Office for National Statistics**, who spoke about careers in social research and the impact sociological data has on society.

As part of our crime and deviance topic, students visited **Bristol Crown Court**, gaining first-hand insight into the justice system and strengthening their understanding of criminological concepts. They also explored the **M Shed Museum**, where exhibitions on Black Lives Matter, protest, and social change supported their learning on inequality and social movements.

Our students continued their commitment to community engagement by contributing to **ARC’s Shoebox Appeal**. We were privileged to host Tony, a service user from ARC, who shared his lived experiences of homelessness, prompting thoughtful discussions about stigma, marginalisation, and social support.

Something you can look forward to ...

We have an exciting programme of sociological enrichment planned for the year ahead, designed to help student apply their learning beyond the classroom and explore Sociology in action.

One of the major opportunities we are preparing is a trip to **Krakow**, where students will visit **Auschwitz-Birkenau** to deepen their understanding of genocide, human rights and social inequality. The visit will also include the **Wieliczka Salt Mines** and a cultural evening introducing Polish language, traditions and dance. Experiences like these help bring key sociological themes to life in powerful and meaningful ways.

We are also planning our annual visit to **Shepton Mallet Prison**, which offers invaluable insight into punishment, rehabilitation and the realities of the criminal justice system.

In addition, we aim to visit the **University of the West of England (UWE)**, where students will explore what studying Sociology at university is like through lectures, workshops and a campus tour.

To support exam success, we are preparing a **Grade Booster Conference** led by Keith Trobe, author of key A Level Sociology textbooks. His sessions will help second year students strengthen their exam technique and deepen their understanding of core topics.

You can look forward to a rich and engaging year.



