

Subject: Law

In your Law lessons over the next year, you will be studying a variety of topics. In preparation for these topics, it would be helpful to complete the following tasks.

The English Legal system

This topic focuses on the differences between civil and criminal law, the places (courts) where cases are heard and the personnel (solicitors, barristers, judges etc.) who work in the courts.



Task

Find out where these courts are in either St Helens or Liverpool and write about what happens in them.

1. The County Court
2. The Magistrates' Court
3. The Crown Court

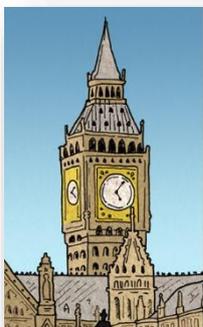
Solicitors and barristers are lawyers. What is the difference between a solicitor and a barrister? Think about where each works and the kind of work they regularly do. To help you, you might watch some episodes of the BBC court drama series '**Silk**'. This focuses on the work of barristers but you will also see the work of solicitors represented. You can also watch a series called 'Barristers on You Tube

Criminal Law

This topic will introduce you to criminal liability through non-fatal offences.

Task 2

1. Find out what the Latin terms 'actus reus' and 'mens rea' mean.
2. Use the site safer.sthelens.gov.uk/ - click on 'Crimes in your area', put in your postcode and record the crimes that have recently taken place in and around your street. Do you notice any patterns? Were you aware that all of these crimes had taken place? Do you think that some crimes go unrecorded? If so, which?
3. Read your local newspaper over the summer. Make a note of any news stories which feature violence. Record the offence and the sentence if it's a report from a court case.



Law-making

This focuses on how laws are made, who makes them and how judges come to decisions.

Task

Find out about Parliament. What does Parliament consist of? What is the difference between Parliament and the government? Which MPs represent St Helens?

The Law of Tort *You will be familiar with adverts which ask whether you have ever suffered an injury or had PPI or have been delayed at the airport. These are all trying to discover whether an individual has suffered a 'tort' (= a 'wrong').*

Task: Research the case of 'Donoghue versus Stevenson' from 1932. What happened and why was this such a significant case.

