|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| HM Courts & Tribunals Service | |  | Bradford County Court  The Law Courts  Exchange Square  Drake Street, Bradford  W Yorkshire BD1 1JA  **T** 01274 843507  **F** 01274 840275  **E** Jayne.furniss @hmcts.gsi.gov.uk  **www.justice.gov.uk** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 9th October 2018 |

Dear Sir / Madam

**Re: Year 12 SPRUCE Course (Student Pre-University Court Exposure) 2019**

The Judges and Staff at Bradford Combined Court Centre consider that the Court has an important role in this City, not only in the resolution of criminal, civil and family cases but as part of the City’s infrastructure and, in particular in informing the public about the work that we do and the interrelationship between the Courts, lawyers and the public. To that end we have for many years welcomed Court visits from school and university students and have from time to time had Judges visit schools to speak and to discuss issues relating to the Law with students.

In June 2015 we launched a new initiative for the benefit of school students who are in Year 12 and are considering a career in the Law. Some students may be contemplating studying Law at university whilst others may be thinking that they might want a legal career in the future but would like to study a subject other than Law before making a decision.

In 2015 the **SPRUCE Course (Student Pre-University Court Exposure)** attracted some 25 students from across schools in the Bradford area. Held at Bradford Combined Court Centre it was a three-day course in which students had the opportunity to hear from Judges, practitioners and academics about the study and practice of law in a wide range of areas and about practical issues which arise for those contemplating a future in the Law. Having the chance to speak to Judges, Barristers and Solicitors provided students with valuable information and insight into what Law is all about and students also had the opportunity to view the Court ‘in action’.

We are aware that many students do not have the family background in the profession which was often perceived as important or even necessary in the past. We want a student’s choice to go on to study and/or practice law to be based on what happens in the real world, rather than the way things are portrayed in the media – this is a big decision. Students need to know the positives and the pitfalls before making that decision.

Following a careful review of **SPRUCE 2015** we made some significant improvements and modifications and **SPRUCE 2016** and **2017** attracted over 40 students and were again, we believe a great success. However, with only limited physical space for this course at Bradford Combined Court Centre, and recognising how participation was growing, **SPRUCE 2018** required a significant overhaul and so, with the generous assistance of Bradford Council we were able to relocate the course to Bradford City Hall where we made use of the Council Chamber and the city’s former Crown Court courtroom. These changes enabled us to introduce new components into the course, including an opportunity for students to take part in ‘real’ courtroom exercises. **SPRUCE 2019** will be held in the same venue and will again bring new and informative sessions to the participating students. It is vital that schools do not delay in bringing the course to the attention of students who may have a real interest in the study and/or practice of the Law, as we are confident that places will fill up fast. Even with the improved facilities we will have to limit the number of participants to ensure the comfort of everyone involved and the success of the programme.

The course is offered at **no cost** to students attending but it is only for those students with a real commitment: students must attend all three days, and on each day we start at 9am and do not finish until about 4.30pm, because there is so much that we want to pack in to ensure that this is a valuable and enjoyable learning experience for everyone who attends. The places would be offered on a first come, first served basis. We would like to enquire whether this course might be of interest to your school and your students. In the past, some students were unaware of the course and missed out on a place as a result, and it is vital that schools help us to reach out to those students who are seriously interested in studying Law at University and/or are interested in a career in the Law.

Please find enclosed the 2018 programme for the course: the 2019 programme will be subject to some modifications and improvements – we do not rest on our laurels - but the 2018 programme provides a very substantial idea of what we propose to offer next year. Although not yet fixed, the course will take place on 25th to 27th June 2019.

If you feel that you might have students who would be interested in attending next year’s course I would be grateful if you would kindly respond with any expressions of interest before Friday 7th December.

If you require any further information at this stage would you please contact Ms Jayne Furniss, Usher/Jury Manager and Witness Liaison Officer via email (jayne.furniss@justice.gov.uk) or by phone (01274 840578).

I hope this is an initiative which will be of interest to you as I am confident that it would be of significant benefit to your students.

Yours sincerely

J Rose

His Honour Judge Jonathan Rose

**School, College and University Liaison Judge**

**Bradford Combined Court Centre**

**SPRUCE 2018**

**THE PROGRAMME**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Tuesday**  **26th June** | **Wednesday**  **27th June** | **Thursday**  **28th June** |
| 0900 - 0930  Coffee and registration | 0900 - 0915  Coffee and registration | 0900 - 0915  Coffee and registration |
| 0930 - 1030  **Introduction and Overview**  **HHJ Jonathan Rose**  The Objects of the Course  The Framework of the Law in England and Wales  **Criminal Law 1** | 0915 - 1000  **Equality and Diversity**  **Aamir Khan**  **Switalskis Solicitors** | 0915 - 1015  **Alisha Kaye**  **Crown Prosecution Service** |
|
| 1030 - 1100 Coffee | 1000 – 1300\*  **Crown Court Sentencing Exercises**  *Student Advocacy Experience in the original Bradford Crown Court*  \*with a 15 minute break | 1015 - 1045 Coffee |
| 1100 - 1200  **Criminal Law 2** | 1045 - 1145  **The Lawyer in Business**  **Anne Blakey**  **Commercial Lawyer, Morrisons plc** |
| 1200 – 1300  **The Study of Law and the Academic Lawyer**  **Professor Engobo Emeseh**  **Head of Law School, Bradford University** | 1145 - 1230  **Pro-Bono and The Citizens’ Advice Bureau**  **Ricky Kimachia**  **Junior Clerk**  **Park Square Chambers, Leeds** |
| 1300 - 1400  Lunch | 1300 - 1400  Lunch | 1230 - 1330  Lunch |
| 1400 - 1500  **The Solicitor and the Criminal Law**  **John Bottomley**  **Petherbridge Bassra Solicitors, Bradford** | 1400 - 1500  **Family Law**  **Tony Chaplin**  **Solicitor, Chivers Walsh, Bradford** | 1330 - 1430  **The Civil Litigation Solicitor**  **Gurpreet Birdi**  **Emsleys Solicitors, Leeds** |
| 1430 - 1530  **The Non-Litigation Solicitor**  Wills, Conveyancing etc  **Catrin Lloyd**  **Switalskis Solicitors** |
| 1500 - 1600  **The Barrister and the Criminal Law**  **Stephen Wood**  **Barrister, Broadway House Chambers, Bradford** | 1500 - 1600  **Civil Law: Contract, Tort and Property**  **Sharn Samra**  **Barrister, Broadway House Chambers** | 1530 - 1600  **Question and Answer Session**  Plenary reflective session  Feedback and Exit |
| 1600 - 1630  Plenary reflective session | 1600 - 1630  Plenary reflective session |