**CSI Whodunnit?**

**Activity**

Level 5/6 Data Handling opportunity, good with y7 students but would work with older ones. Covers use of scatter graphs and time series graphs, could also include patterns in fingerprints.

The students come in to a crime scene, chalked out body on the floor and “evidence “ left behind for them to analyse.

**Cross-curricular opportunities**

Science (cooling curves), English/Drama/Art (presentation of their results), ICT (presentation of their results, use of spreadsheets)

**Resources**

Can be as adventurous as you want!

Minimum needed is some photocopying (the footprint found at the scene, a cup of coffee at 54 degrees), access to a kettle, stop watches and thermometers (the science department can usually oblige), access to some mud in an outside area.

I have used “Crime scene, Do not cross!” toilet paper from Hawkins Bazaar to tape off the scene of crime around a chalk outline of a body on the carpet.

**What as a teacher did I hope to get out of it?**

I wanted the students to see the value in generating scatter graphs and time series graphs for a purpose. It also allowed them the opportunity to discuss inferences from data and to be creative in their thinking. Definitely an opportunity for group work.

**The task…**

See task sheet and resource sheets.

**Outcomes**

They have a lot of ideas about the footprint which you may want to follow up (e.g. common patterns from different trainers) but discussion leads to being able to estimate height from the length of the footprint. Some mud outside means each student can produce a muddy footprint on a sheet of A4 paper which can be measured and the data collated alongside their height. This can be done in the first lesson.

From their discussions they realise the crime was recent as the coffee is still warm: questioning can lead them to an experiment to find out how quickly coffee cools, discussion of generating data which could be used at another crime scene leads them to creating a cooling curve (this needs one lesson of an hour to collect data and discuss graphing which can then be completed as homework).

I gave them a basic writing frame for writing up the evidence but better groups only need this as a guide. This meant they had an estimated height for the culprit and an estimated time of death related to when the body was found.

As final summaries I got Wanted Posters, Radio news scripts but, best of all, 4 groups produced a video clip of the item going out on the news. Many of them included witness statements and additional information I told them they could add in.

**Students views**:

They really enjoyed this as a lot of them enjoy crime TV programs or books.

It was a good kinaesthetic activity.

They saw links with other subject areas and were happy to demonstrate skills they had learnt in other areas as well.

**The task…**



An investigation into the death of Mrs Sumbody

The body of Mrs Sumbody was found today in her room.

It is your task to

* Collect the evidence
* Write up the crime report
* Produce a profile of the killer/report the death

(The students in groups of 3/4 collect a copy of the footprint and the coffee cup. They then have time to discuss the case.)