

# You Be the Judge: Mental Illness, Crime and Responsibility



A lecture by Prof Donna Arya, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, St Andrew's Healthcare, Northampton

Wednesday 18th March 2026, 6.00pm – 7.00pm

(Please come along earlier to see our Year 12 Youth STEMM awards presentations from 5.15pm)

Lillingstone Trust Community Laboratory

Discovery Centre, Royal Latin School, Buckingham, MK18 1AX

When someone commits a crime and they are mentally unwell, how do we decide whether they should be punished, treated, or both?

In this interactive lecture, Professor Arya will explore the complex relationship between mental illness and criminal behaviour. Using real-life inspired case scenarios, the audience will be invited to consider how courts and doctors decide whether an individual should receive treatment in hospital or face imprisonment. The lecture will explore how forensic psychiatrists balance patient care, public safety and justice. It will also briefly highlight how communication barriers, including those experienced by Deaf individuals, can influence mental health assessment and legal outcomes.

Entry to these talks is free to all members of the local community. For further details, or to book a seat, please visit [www.royallatin.org/lillingstone-lectures](http://www.royallatin.org/lillingstone-lectures)



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