

THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The Science department comprises a dynamic team, with a keen interest in fostering a love for our subject in the students at the school. Through our delivery of a balanced curriculum, we aim to encourage curiosity in our students and a drive to ask questions about the world around them. Development of key scientific skills is paramount, allowing students to become scientific thinkers, able to solve problems in a logical manner and scrutinise information in critically.

The Science Curriculum

In key stage 3, students follow collaboratively planned schemes of work that progress through the 'big ideas' of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This key stage lasts until January of year 9, after which students complete an enrichment project; where they are given the opportunity to investigate an area of their choice, and a four week 'bridging materials' project, covering key skills in preparation for Key stage 4 content. During year 7, students are taught in mixed ability classes; through year 8 and year 9, we have 2 top sets, and the remainder are mixed ability classes.

At Key stage 4, students follow one of two routes; AQA Trilogy Science or AQA triple Science, which they can take as one of their option subjects. In both options, students are provided with an equal number of teaching time across all three specialisms, and will either be taught by 3 teachers in their subject specialism, or in some cases, 2 teachers, with one of the specialisms split. Triple Science option groups are taught in mixed ability, whereas Trilogy Science is delivered in either Foundation or Higher sets.

Curriculum time

In Key Stage 3, pupils are provided with 3 hours per week.

At Key Stage 4, students will have 5 hours per week, and if they take Triple Science, an extra 2 hours per week option time.

Accommodation and resources

The department has 6 laboratories along one corridor, one main prep room and 2 further storage spaces. We are supported by 3 excellent technicians, who always ensure that equipment is kept in excellent condition and delivered promptly at the start of each lesson. All laboratories have a desktop computer and interactive whiteboard. The department has a bank of ipads and laptops for use with students.