

Department of Science

The Science Department benefits from the work of 15 members of staff, both full time and part time, they are in turn supported by three excellent Laboratory Technicians. There are three ECTs in the department currently; many other colleagues are very experienced.

The Department has three Curriculum Leaders for Science. Each leads on the development of teaching, learning and management of a key stage. It is strategically led by a Director of Science. Every member of the department is encouraged to lead and develop their teaching practice and develop some area of Science.

The Department is well resourced. There are a number of dedicated laboratories, classrooms and several preparation and storage rooms. All but a small number of lessons are taught in the Science area. All areas were refurbished in 2011.

Science is a popular subject within the school and the Department has a reputation for producing sound results at Key Stage 3, GCSE and GCE level. There is always the opportunity to innovate, to lead to increased attainment.

At Key Stage 3 the subject occupies 12% of curriculum time (3 hours per week) and is supported by a fully resourced in-house scheme of work. Developments this year include development of KS3 modules to prepare students for GCSE content.

In Years 7 and 8 students are placed in ability bands and are usually assigned to one member of staff.

At Key Stage 4 Science occupies at least 18% of curriculum time (4 or 5 hours per week). Pupils are placed in near ability bands and are taught by three specialist subject teachers, studying either Triple Award or Combined AQA science. Triple Science students have an extra hour's lesson per week.

Sixth Form courses are strong with good uptake in all three subject areas. Most years we operate two or more groups in Physics and Chemistry; Biology frequently has three groups. Pupils follow the AQA A level courses in all three subjects. We also offer Applied Science Level 3 as a pathway for students who require broader science knowledge and skills.

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