



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Overview

This is an exciting time to join our Science department. We have been through a period of significant change and improvement over the past two years.

All members of the department are qualified scientists. The science team are dedicated to improving standards in learning and teaching as well as raising achievement. Ofsted viewed learning and teaching within the department as being good with some outstanding elements. It is the aim of the science department to be outstanding in all areas.

Learning and Teaching

This is at the heart of all that we do. At the basis of our teaching is the belief that the unique approach of science is one that should be accessible to all students through personalised pathways; an approach that follows the school philosophy. We try to provide support for each other and to share our ideas, expertise and experience - new ideas can come from anywhere! The opportunity to develop individual interests is encouraged. Everyone is also encouraged to contribute to discussions on matters of curriculum, philosophy and administration in the department.

We have a very talented Science team, including an Assistant Headteacher, who has extensive experience of teaching and leading in Science, as well as leading on school improvement across Birmingham schools. We have a very strong Science Leadership Team, with two Heads of Science and Two Seconds in Science, providing real strength and depth and a range of experience. We also have a full complement of talented teachers who are dedicated to providing the very best for our students. We are passionate about developing teachers and leaders and there are many opportunities for staff. Currently our Science staff are represented in the Learning and Teaching Group, leading on innovation across the school and they lead on STEM.

Curriculum

At The Coleshill School we believe in offering a personalised pathway to ensure students are able to learn and achieve within a framework of academic rigour. Our science curriculum is designed to provide all students with a pathway through Key Stage 4, with clear progression routes for Post 16.

Key Stage 3

In Key Stage 3 we have developed our own scheme of work using AQA specification as a guide. The key focus is on building the skills necessary for the new look GCSE examinations. The new curriculum also provides opportunities for deeper learning within key topics and aims to develop the scientific enquiry and critical thinking skills needed to develop students as effective scientists.

Key Stage 4

We have a three year Key Stage 4 with students beginning their KS4 courses in Year 9. All students follow a science pathway throughout Key Stage 4. The examination board is AQA.



Triple sciences

High ability students follow a triple science pathway, also AQA. These students will have eight hours of science as well as five hours of an option (over a two week timetable). Students will begin their programme of study in Year 9 with required practicals being carried out as course progresses and examinations being taken in Year 11.

AQA Trilogy

High ability students who do not wish to take triple science as an option, as well as middle ability and some low ability students, will follow core the AQA Trilogy combined science course. They begin their programme of study in Year 9; sitting the examinations in the final year.

Post 16 Science

At Post 16 we offer all three Science disciplines and will have courses running at both AS and A2. Numbers have increased over the past two years. We are also offering Applied Science from 2017.

Facilities and Organisation

The accommodation consists of six laboratories and access to ICT suite. The resources are good and they are reviewed and updated regularly. The department is well equipped. In accordance with whole school policy, access to the ICT rooms is timetabled. The science department takes advantage of this time and is developing resources to cater for student needs

The staff consists of seven full time, permanent specialists and one Senior Science Link, who is also a Science Specialist. We have two full time Laboratory Assistants who provide excellent technical support for lessons. All teachers can access software such as Boardworks, Kerboodle etc.

Extra-Curricular Science

We passionately believe in bringing Science to life outside of the classroom as well as within lessons. There are always opportunities for our staff to get involved in trips and projects. We have trips planned to our partner school in The Gambia which includes taking science equipment and teaching them science! We also have an active and thriving STEM club which enthuses our students to enquire about science in a practical and fun way outside of timetabled lessons. The students at The Coleshill School are wonderful and keen to enjoy any opportunity to learn in new ways.