Beths Grammar School

Science Department Information

The Science Department was judged to be Outstanding under an Ofsted Science Survey Inspection in January 2012. Science is a dynamic and forward-looking department that is involved in a number of initiatives that include enrichment activities in partnership with a cluster group of local primary schools. At KS4 there has been a further improvement to the already impressive GCSE results following the implementation of the OCR Gateway specification. In the Sixth Form, Science is a significant area of growth with students who complete A2 courses achieving a high proportion of top grades. We encourage them to participate in enrichment activities such as the Science Olympiads where they have performed most creditably.

We are keen to continue to build on this tremendous achievement by further extending and developing our enrichment programme in Science. The Science Department currently has twelve teachers with a good balance of specialists in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The department is led by the Head of Science with Heads of Subjects having responsibility for the separate sciences and there is good support provided by a team of three Science Technicians, including a Senior Science Technician.

There is an improving trend in GCSE results across the Sciences, with excellent results in the three Science subjects. In 2017 the majority of our Year 11 students took Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate Sciences. In Biology 97% of the students achieved A*-C with 61% gaining A*/A grades. In Physics, 96% and 58% achieved A*-C and A*/A respectively. In Chemistry, 96% and 47% of 132 students achieved A*-C and A*/A respectively. In 2017, 55%, 41% and 61% A*-B grades were achieved in A2 Biology, Chemistry and Physics respectively. The department also offers A-Level Electronics with many of our most able students choosing this following the GCSE Electronics Product course they follow in Design Technology in Year 10. In 2017 the A2 pass rate in Electronics was 100% with 57% of grades at A*-B.

The Science Department is very well resourced. There are nine first class science laboratories, fully equipped preparation rooms, offices, a staff workroom, which houses a departmental photocopier, and extensive storage areas. All laboratories are fully networked with interactive whiteboard technology. The Science Department also has a set of 15 laptops with wireless capability and a wide range of data logging.

Our students follow a two-year KS3 science curriculum and commence GCSE in Year 9.

Being a Grammar School, most students go on to complete the separate award qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Year 11. There is a small Dual Science group. At Key Stage 5, Biology follows the Edexcel specification; Chemistry, Physics and Electronics follow the OCR specifications.

The number of students following Science courses in the Sixth Form continues to increase. There are currently two Biology groups in Year 12, three in Year 13; three Chemistry groups in Year 12, two in Year 13; and two Physics groups in Year 12 and two in Year 13. The successful candidate would also contribute to KS3 Science and the enrichment programme and support our drive to further raise standards of achievement at Beths Grammar School.

You will be joining an outstanding and supportive team of individuals who are united in their ethos of providing excellence of Teaching and Learning for all our students.

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