

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

As a department, we believe it is important that students are able to actively unravel scientific misconceptions through being presented with key concepts underpinning a wide variety of phenomena, so that they are able to link what they learn in their lessons with the world around them. It is this belief that is a major driving force for all activities in our department.

Home to 14 science teachers and three technicians, the department has 11 laboratories, one large preparation room and a large workspace for teachers, all of which were recently refurbished following the award of a £1.6 million grant in 2015. Together with our developing curriculum, it is a great time to be joining the Department!

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have three, one hour, science lessons a week. Years 7 and 8 follow a two year KS3 curriculum which builds knowledge and key skills to prepare them for GCSE. Students then commence their GCSE studies at the beginning of Year 9, where all students follow a common curriculum of transitional KS3 to GCSE units, before continuing onto the most appropriate pathway in Year 10.

Students in Year 10 and 11 have five, one hour, science lessons a week. Students follow one of two pathways depending on which is the most suitable to support them in achieving their potential:

- Separate Science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics (AQA specification)
- Combined Science GCSE (AQA Specification)

With the introduction of a sixth form in September 2009, we have established courses in A level Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Psychology, as well as a Level 3 BTEC in Applied Science. Students have a generous five, one hour, science lessons a week in each subject being studied.

Our summer 2016 results have shown that the department is going from strength to strength. Performance at GCSE was significantly above the national average, and four of our Key Stage 5 subjects achieved ALPS scores of 4 or better.

This is an excellent opportunity to join a highly successful department and play a significant role in its continued development.