**SCIENCE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR TECHNICIAN APPLICANTS**

The Science Department is a successful department with good results at KS3 and KS4. There are 18 teaching staff and 4 technicians teaching in 11 laboratories. Teachers do not have their own laboratory but we do try to minimise movement throughout the teaching day.

Years 7, 8 and 9 are taught using an in-house scheme developed from the Exploring Science package. Year 7 are taught in mixed ability classes and Years 8 and 9 are in academic sets.

Most KS4 students will be following the AQA Trilogy (double Science) scheme but some can opt to complete a third Science GCSE as part of the AQA Separate Sciences scheme. The department believes that a flexible curriculum is necessary for the benefit of our future students.

A Level Sciences are popular with around 200 students choosing to do Biology, Chemistry and Physics AS/A2 levels. At AS/A2 level we have 6 Biology groups, 5 Chemistry groups and 2 Physics Groups. AS/A2 Physics follow the AQA specification, AS/A2 Chemistry follow the AQA specification, and AS/A2 Biology follow SNAB from EDEXCEL. Students are dedicated and enthusiastic with a large number gaining A/B grades and going on to study at prestigious universities. We also offer Level 3 BTEC Applied Science (Diploma and Extended Diploma) in years 12 and 13.

The department works with teachers from other departments via the Triad system within school and indeed with schools across the Northwest; collaboration between schools within the North Cluster of Bolton is encouraged.

Extra curricular activities involve many trips to a variety of places for all years. The Science Club has really flourished in recent years and we hope it will prove to be as successful in the future. GCSE Astronomy and computer programing have been previously offered as extra-curricular clubs and we are open to any other suggestions which can spread the enthusiasm for Science.

The department is very well resourced with excellent technicians and equipment. We have interactive whiteboards or projectors in all rooms and a dedicated ICT room. The Science area of the school VLE is well developed.

Students at Turton cover a wide academic ability range and the successful candidate would have strategies to motivate and engage students at all levels.

The department has a Head of Science, supported by Heads of Subject, Key Stage 3 Co-ordinator and Key Stage 4 Co-ordinators who work as a team to lead the department forward. The successful candidate would be expected to engage fully with the Science team and contribute to all aspects of school life, while monitoring the progress of students and supporting the improved achievement of all.

Regular department meetings are generally used for the development of staff, shared planning and curriculum development. The department is forward thinking and often a leading light in the school in terms of pedagogy and data use. A good social atmosphere both within and outside of school hours is a key feature of the department and this contributes greatly to the team feel of the department. Career progression opportunities are available for enthusiastic and dedicated teachers. We also offer excellent support for staff commencing their NQT year. We have strong links with ITT providers in the area.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact school and speak to Jason Bach, Head of Science.