**The Chemistry Department at Torquay Girls’ Grammar School**

This is a well established and well resourced department. The vast majority of the Chemistry teaching, and certainly KS4 and higher, is delivered by Chemistry specialists. This hopefully ensures that our passion for the subject is enthusiastically conveyed to all our students.

All girls are taught Chemistry as a separate science from year 7 up to and including year 11. The vast majority of students will take GCSE Chemistry (AQA) in year 11 whilst the remaining students follow the course which enables them to qualify for GCSE Science Trilogy. Either route will allow the girls to study Chemistry at A level provided they achieved suitably high grades at GCSE. The syllabus taught at KS5 is OCR Syllabus Chemistry A which we feel provides an exciting pathway to further the knowledge, concepts and skills that students have developed at GCSE.

**The Science Department**

We are a department of eleven teachers, two of whom are part-time, consisting of four Biology, four Chemistry and two Physics specialists. We are extremely well supported by four fantastic technicians who ensure the smooth running of eight well-equipped laboratories and five preparation rooms; two laboratories went through a major refurbishment in 2010 and one in 2016.

**Key Stage 3**

A two-year accelerated Science programme is delivered in years 7 and 8 to provide a suitably challenging and engaging course for all our students. In both years, girls are taught in mixed ability tutor groups and have six 60 minute lessons every fortnight, rotating between subjects.

Each student is provided with online access to a student book and lessons are supported with ‘ActiveTeach’ resources; for example, video clips, animations and interactive quizzes which are both fun and help further the learning experience.

Specific key assessments and end of unit tests throughout the academic year form the basis of assessment together with the school’s end of year examinations.

**Key Stage 4**

We offer the AQA suite of Science GCSE courses, which are started in year 9 and completed in year 11. In year 9 students have two 60 minute lessons per science subject every fortnight, which is increased to three lessons per science subject in years 10 and 11 for Double and five lessons for Triple science.

All classes are taught Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately and by subject-specialists, which combined with the smaller class sizes, facilitates more individualised learning to meet the needs of our able students. We want our students to enjoy their lessons whilst being fully engaged and challenged; we aim to provide a varied programme of study to provide opportunities to undertake science investigations and extension activities.

Every student is provided with online access to their text book and kerboodle for use at home and a number of our ‘Revision Packs’ containing past paper materials prior to their examinations. Students are also given the opportunity to purchase CGP workbooks and answer books to support them in their revision.

**Key Stage 5**

Many students continue to study at least one science subject at AS and A2 levels and we also attract a number of new students to the sixth form. We currently offer all three science subjects at Advanced Level: **GCE Biology, GCE Chemistry and GCE Physics**.

The teaching of each class is divided between two specialist teachers, each taking five 60 minute lessons every two weeks. Our advanced courses are also firmly based on investigations, practical work and individual research, with a large number of students opting to pursue a science discipline at university.