

**The Science Department**

Science is a hugely popular subject area within Matthew Arnold School.

The department consists of twelve specialist science teaching staff and three technicians. Science teachers work as a team offering a broad range of skills and expertise.  All staff have high expectations of students in terms of achievement and behavior and as a result the science department is consistently one of the highest achieving departments in school.

The department has a purpose built science centre with seven laboratories, two large preparation rooms and a science staff work room.  We are well equipped and resourced.  The laboratories and work areas are divided by a large, spectacular atrium with desktop computers available for use solely in science lessons.

Students follow the Activate scheme of work for a two year KS3 which is taught in years 7 and 8.

All students begin their science GCSEs in year 9 and study separate sciences over three years.  All lessons focus on the learning outcomes and practical work is regularly used as a way of meeting these.  We have developed in-house detailed schemes of work which incorporate a range of learning styles and activities. All staff are skilled at AfL and students are regularly assessed using these as well as more summative methods.

A Level sciences are very popular at Matthew Arnold School with more than 60% of all Post-16 students taking at least one science subject.  The department currently offers five subjects: BTEC Applied Science, A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Psychology. Biology students follow the OCR course, chemistry students take Edexcel Chemistry, students of physics follow the Advancing Physics course and psychology students take AQA Specification A.

**Colin Buchanan & Teresa Hirst**

**Curriculum Leaders Science**