

Blue Coat Church of England School and Music College

Science Department Profile for Job Applications

At Blue Coat we are determined to provide a practical, engaging and rigorous Science curriculum that both enthuses students and enables them to pursue the subject to the full extent of their ability. We pride ourselves on being a friendly and welcoming team with a culture of collaboration and teamwork that creates a lively and stimulating working environment.

The department is led by separate Heads of Physics, Chemistry and Biology, managed and co-ordinated by the Head of Science. We have eighteen highly experienced and well-qualified teachers, with a good balance across the three specialisms, as well as an intervention worker and four technicians. Lessons are largely delivered in eleven well-equipped laboratories, four of which were recently refurbished.

We deliver the new Key Stage 3 National Curriculum across Years 7 and 8 using the SMART Science Assessment model and with practical skills assessments which we have designed to prepare students for the new GCSE specification. GCSE Science is taught across Years 9, 10 and 11, following the AQA GCSE Science courses. We began teaching the new AQA 2016 specification to Year 9 in September 2015. Approximately 40% of our students are entered for separate Science GCSEs.

In Sixth Form we teach A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, all following AQA specifications. We also offer a Level 3 Applied Science BTEC course. Our retention rate is high, with a record numbers of students studying advanced level science courses in recent years. A-level results in all three individual Sciences are very good, averaging around 60% A*-B at A2 level, and many students leave the school to follow STEM based degree courses at universities and colleges, including a significant number who apply for medicine and to Oxbridge. Extracurricular Science opportunities include a Key Stage STEM 3 club, a wide range of educational visits and an A Level Chemistry Café.

As a department, we host trainee teachers and regularly have students within the department from courses such as Warwick in Schools, PGCE and Schools Direct. They receive excellent training from our highly experienced and effective teachers with most staff being trained to be a trainee mentor. We also work with Warwick University as a Subject Hub of Excellence, delivering subject knowledge training to their trainees.

Mrs C Taylor
Head of Science