Why join the Science department?

**The team**

This is a thriving, dynamic department. We work hard, support each other and achieve excellent outcomes for our students.

The team is comprised of 16 full time teachers, 2 part time staff and 2 technicians. There is a good balance of biologists, chemists and physicists***.*** The team is led by a Subject Leader, who is supported by 4 Assistant Subject Leaders and 2 Lead Practitioners, one of whom specialises in Biology, the other Chemistry.

**Facilities**

The Academy is housed in a single, purpose-built block. Science facilities comprise 7 large teaching laboratories, 3 smaller laboratories and 1 computer room. All rooms are equipped with a computer, projector and interactive whiteboard. There is a Science workroom, which allows staff to plan collaboratively and to share best practice. We benefit from a purpose-built prep room, as well as the support of 2 qualified science technicians. Students regularly carry out practical work, and labs are well-stocked in order to accommodate this.

**Courses offered**

We deliver a bespoke KS3 curriculum based on the DfE Programme of Study to Years 7-9. KS4 students study the new AQA specifications. Those in the two top sets from Year 9 onwards study Separate Sciences, whilst all other students follow the Combined Science: Trilogy specification. Each KS4 class is taught by a single teacher, who is responsible for teaching across the three disciplines. We find that this allows staff to build excellent relationships with students in their exam groups. A wide variety of resources are available to those teaching outside of their degree specialism, and we hold regular ‘Curriculum Masterclasses’ to support teachers in developing their subject pedagogy.

Sciences are popular at KS5. The department offers Biology (OCR A), Chemistry (AQA) and Physics (AQA) to A-level and also runs a popular Level 3 BTEC course in Applied Science. There are two classes in each year group for Biology and Chemistry, and one for Physics.

**Results**

Science results in 2016-17 were the best ever! 91% of all students achieved A\*-C grades in Core Science. The majority of Year 11 students were entered for Additional Science, with 94% achieving A\*-C grades. 27% of Additional Science grades were A\*-A, representing students’ excellent progress. In Further Additional Science, 38% of students achieved A\*-A grades.

We have also enjoyed some of our best ever results at KS5: 62% of students achieved A\*-B grades in A2 Biology and Physics, beating national averages. In Chemistry, this figure was 44%, which was in line with national averages.

**More information**

Should you require more information about the department, or wish to arrange an informal visit or conversation, please contact Ben Ives (Subject Leader – Science) – Ben.Ives@paddington-academy.org.