**The Science Faculty**

The Science Faculty is very strong and has an outstanding academic record at GCSE, A level and with Oxbridge entrance. Each department has a technical Team Leader and a General Science Technician.

The Science teaching facilities are among the finest available in any school in the country at this time and the Faculty is generously resourced. The vast majority of teaching in each department is by subject specialists.

In Year 7, the pupils begin to study the three separate sciences undertaking courses in biology, chemistry and physics. The study of the separate disciplines continues through Year 8 to Year 11 when all pupils are currently entered for a double award in Science (Edexcel International GCSE Science (Double Award)). From September 2018, students may choose to study and enter the separate biology, chemistry and physics Edexcel International GCSEs. Biology, chemistry and physics are all offered at A level and all three subjects currently follow the AQA specification.

**The Chemistry Department**

The chemistry department is a team of nine highly committed chemistry teachers and two full time technicians with considerable experience of teaching AQA A level chemistry and Edexcel International GCSE Science (Double Award). “Minds on” practical work is an integral part of teaching and learning at all ages and stages. The department has nine teaching laboratories and two preparation rooms. Each laboratory is very well equipped with two permanent fume cupboards and a large interactive screen. Colleagues also benefit from two designated work rooms, which house an extensive collection of central, often bespoke resources. The school has several designated IT rooms, one of which is situated immediately adjacent to the chemistry department.

The department works very closely together. Colleagues carry out their delegated departmental responsibilities with pride and confidence. The sharing of resources and ideas is the norm. Schemes of work are clear, well-established and provide an appropriate balance of guidance, structure and flexibility to allow teachers to adopt their individual style. Feedback for progress permeates through all we do and the department enjoys a reputation for high expectations but set within a supportive learning environment; formula clinics, drop in clinics and A level chemistry maths club are well used by our learners. The department has a great track record in the *Top of the Bench* competition and each year several of our students enjoy the challenge of *Chemistry* *Olympiad* entry.

Chemistry has a very high profile within the school, teaching all students from 11-16 and with large numbers in the sixth form. The department has a reputation for excellence, sending large numbers of talented students to top universities on STEM and medical related courses. Nevertheless, the department is highly reflective and always strives for improvement and development, which is informed by regular pupil voice, work sampling, learning walks and honest, constructive, evaluative discussion in department meetings. The department has considerable experience of providing mentoring for ITT students and actively encourages colleagues to pursue continuing professional development activities.