

The Science Department:

Science is taught in a purpose built block which includes 9 laboratories. Each Science is served by its own preparation room and there is a team of 4 technicians, who provide excellent technical support in all 3 Sciences. An enormous amount of investment in software, apparatus and equipment has taken place in the Science department in recent years and all of the laboratories are well equipped.

The Science Curriculum

Years 7 to 9

All Year 7 and 8 students follow a Science course that incorporates Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The students are taught in their form groups and receive six lessons of Science each fortnight. The students are assessed throughout the year, through topic tests, end of module examinations and levelled practical activities. The lessons are taught largely in our well-equipped laboratories that support our department's practical approach to Science.

In Year 9, students are placed in groups according to their ability in the subject and their performance in the Year 7 and 8 assessments. The students receive six lessons of Science per fortnight (two lessons of Biology, two lessons of Chemistry and two lessons of Physics). The students currently have a specialist teacher for each subject and start the AQA GCSE content in each of the Sciences. The classes cover only Double Science content in Year 9 with a decision being taken at the end of year regarding whether students will follow Double or Triple Science courses.

Years 10 & 11

We offer both Triple and Double award Science courses through AQA. The students in the higher ability groups follow the Triple Science course, which is equivalent to three GCSEs in Science. All other students follow the Double Science course, which is equivalent to two GCSEs in Science. Both of these courses provide the students with an opportunity to look at modern Science and build on their knowledge and practical ability, before embarking on one of our A Level courses.

Sixth Form

Advanced Level courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics are on offer. Each course consists of 10 lessons per fortnight, all of which are taught by degree-level subject specialists. All of the courses have a substantial practical element, which is supported by excellent technical support and investment in resources. Many of our students go on to study Science at degree level, including Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Natural Sciences.

Across the Sixth Form (for the academic year 2017/18), there are 8 A Level Biology groups, 6 A Level Chemistry groups and 5 A Level Physics groups. All the Advanced Level courses are taught as two year linear courses.

Extra-curricular Activities

Students in all year groups are encouraged to involve themselves in the various extra-curricular activities on offer. A rich programme exists, including a lunchtime Science Club for the lower school students that meets on a weekly basis. Students also have the chance to take part in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) projects and activities that enable them to develop their creativity, problem-solving and employability skills. There is a wide ranging programme of visits in all sciences including a Year 7 programme of work based upon Whipsnade Zoo.

For the older students, activities include the Biology and Chemistry Olympiads, practical engineering projects, the Medicine Society, Dissection Club and a Sixth Form visit to CERN in Geneva.