



## SOLIHULL

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### THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT AT SOLIHULL

The Chemistry Department at Solihull School consists of an enthusiastic and well-qualified team of four full-time, experienced and highly successful teachers. We work extremely well together, having a passion for our subject which we pass on to the pupils that we teach. We are very proud to have been identified as one of the most approachable departments within the school and we meet on a weekly basis to share best practice and to identify ways in which we can best support our pupils to enable them to reach their full potential.

#### Resources

The Chemistry Department is extremely well resourced due to a generous departmental budget and we have two outstanding Chemistry lab technicians who support us in all that we do. This enables frequent practical work within all year groups and allows our Sixth Form students to work individually when required. Textbooks for all year groups are regularly renewed and resources such as Kerboodle and ExamCreator are available to the department. We have three dedicated Chemistry laboratories, a joint Science laboratory (used mainly for Sixth Form lessons), a lecture theatre, a dedicated Science Department photocopier and a very large, outstandingly resourced Chemistry prep room. Each member of the Chemistry department has their own work station within our office.

#### Curriculum

**IIIrd and Shell Form** (Years 7 & 8) – The Oxford Activate Integrated Science Course Science programme is followed as part of the National Curriculum KS3 scheme of work. Pupils have 4 x 40 minute periods per week (two double lessons) in the IIIrd Form and 5 x 40 minute periods per week (two double lessons and a single) in the Shell Form.

**IVth - UVth Form** (Years 9 - 11) – The Edexcel IGCSE specification is taught. Pupils have 3 x 40 minute periods per week (1 double and 1 single lesson) in the IVth Form, 4 x 40 minute periods per week (1 double and 2 single lessons) in the LVth and 3 x 40 minute periods (1 double and 1 single lesson) in the UVth.

**Sixth Form** - Chemistry is a popular A Level subject and we teach the OCR Chemistry A specification. Set sizes are usually around 12 students and there are currently 3 sets in both Years 12 and 13. Each set is taught by two members of the department, both teachers having 4 periods per week in Year 12. In Year 13, one teacher has 4 periods per week whilst the other has 5.

### **Chemistry Support**

To help those who are finding a particular topic difficult or who require support with their prep or revision, we run a GCSE Chemistry clinic every Monday lunchtime and an A level clinic every Thursday lunchtime.

### **Chemistry Enrichment**

Shell Form (Year 8 pupils) attend one of the Salter's Chemistry events at the University of Birmingham, we take it in turns with Biology and Physics to attend Skirting for Science (for year 9 girls) and GCSE Science Live (for year 11 pupils). A Level students have the opportunity to attend the Chemistry in Action lectures at Warwick University as well as the biennial trip to the AAAS conference in the USA. Dr Mark Read, from the Chemistry Department at the University of Birmingham, runs a 'Spectroscopy in a Suitcase' tutorial for our Year 12 students towards the end of the summer term and we are looking to further develop our links with the UoB to enable our students to attend workshops within their labs.

### **External Examinations**

All pupils take the Edexcel IGCSE Chemistry paper 1C and 2C at the end of Year 11. At A level, there are no AS exams at the end of Year 12. Students will take the three OCR Chemistry A exam papers at the end of Year 13.

External examination results have been consistently strong and in the past five years are as follows:

<b>A Level Results</b>	<b>A*</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>U</b>
2012	13.3%	46.7%	73.3%	86.7%	96.7%	100.0%	
2013	19.0%	64.3%	83.3%	92.9%	97.6%	100.0%	
2014	10.0%	75.0%	100.0%	--	--	--	
2015	28.6%	61.9%	90.4%	95.2%	100.0%	--	
2016	11.5%	38.5%	69.2%	92.3%	96.2%	100.0%	
2017 (linear)	6.3%	53.1%	81.3%	96.8%	96.8%	100.0%	

<b>GCSE Results</b>	<b>A*</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>
2012	33.0%	59.4%	86.8%	96.2%	100.0%	--	--
2013	33.7%	76.0%	93.3%	100.0%	--	--	--
2014	34.3%	69.5%	90.5%	97.1%	100.0%	--	--
2015	42.7%	66.1%	80.6%	91.1%	95.2%	100.0%	--
2016	46.7%	71.4%	88.6%	95.2%	97.1%	99.0%	100.0%
2017	46.75	69.1%	81.4%	90.7%	95.3%	98.1%	100.0%