



The Science Department

The Science Department at Nicholas Chamberlaine School is the largest department in the school. There is a strong team ethos and teachers and leaders in the department work hard to provide opportunities for all students.

The department is currently made up of twelve teachers with a spread of specialism across Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Science accommodation is located in two areas of the school consisting of ten laboratories served by three preparation rooms and managed by three laboratory assistants. For staff use there are dedicated work areas, printing and IT facilities. All classrooms are fitted with projectors and have a separate stand-alone computer for student use.

Within the department there are currently TLR positions as follows;

- Director of Achievement Science
- Subject Leader
- Zic / Head of Biology
- Head of Chemistry / Head of Physics

The Key Stage 3 curriculum has been written to focus on key concepts and developing scientific and thinking skills to form strong foundations and depth of learning to improve student progression from key stage 2 to 4 in a two year KS3 programme of study. The department aims to build student understanding and abilities to secure increasingly confident and successful science students over their five years studying the subject. In KS3 Science occupies 12% of curriculum time. Concepts are taught in modules and students work towards end of term and year assessments. The department has developed its own skills based assessment programme to support ongoing assessment throughout Key Stage 3, expecting regular marking and feedback to improve student achievement and progress.

At Key Stage 4, all students study the OCR Gateway combined Sciences over three years. We deliver the OCR Gateway single Science courses to groups who are chosen based on ability. There are 2 groups following this course in year 10 and it continues to be a popular choice for students. Staff teach the full range of Science subjects at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. However, where possible, Key Stage 4 Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs are taught by subject specialists.

Students in the sixth form currently follow the OCR courses in Biology A and OCR Chemistry A and OCR Physics A. Learning of modules leads to A level awards in each of these subjects. Up-take of these courses is good and numbers have steadily increased in recent years. Level 3 BTEC in Applied Science is offered and has also had a good up-take.

Enrichment activities are regularly built into the curriculum to support student learning and the department has taken an active role in linking with primary schools to deliver Science Week activities. The department has developed links with local universities and promotes student involvement in wider opportunities offered in the area in the subject at all levels from Year 7 to 6th Form. The department encourages all students to take up curricular and extra-curricular activities on offer and actively look to widen student's horizons through engaging Science activities.