

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Introduction

The Science department comprises a wide range of teaching experience. Teachers have high expectations and work hard to create an atmosphere in which student achievement is constantly improved. Attainment and value added are outstanding or good in all areas. Due to an increase in student uptake at Key Stage 5 and school expansion in general, we are seeking to strengthen the team of Science teachers to gain extra capacity. It is anticipated that strategies recently implemented to target specific student groups will produce even better exam results in all areas.

Staff and Accommodation

The department comprises 14 full time and 2 part time Science teachers plus 4 technicians. There are currently four post holders who are Director of Science, Subject Leader of Biology and Key Stage 5 Co-ordinator, Key Stage 4 Co-ordinator and Subject Leader of Physics, and a Key Stage 3 Co-ordinator. Other members of the department also hold whole school responsibilities.

Up to GCSE all staff teach across the age and ability range. The department follows a policy of teaching within/outside of specialisms at Key Stage 3 and 4. The department has excellent facilities with all lessons timetabled in the Science area of the school. The Science suite comprises 13 large teaching laboratories and one dedicated ICT suite. Of these 13 labs seven were built in 2004 whilst six were refurbished at the same time. Central to these teaching rooms is a large prep room and resources area. We are very excited by the major building developments taking place in the school over the next two years and part of this will be two new Science laboratories which will be in use from September 2017.

Curriculum

Key Stage 3 has undergone a period of transition with students now following a two-year programme of study. Schemes of work for Key Stage 3 have been rewritten as the new National Curriculum rolls through. Developing AFL and PLTs through strategies such as learning to learn is a key focus for the department as well as implementing new forms of assessment as we continue to assess without levels.

The structure for classes in Key Stage 3 is that students are ability set either in half year groups. Students will complete their Key Stage 3 course by the end of Year 8 and then start the GCSE Science course in Year 9.

In KS4 students can express a preference to follow the triple science route following the AQA syllabus. The remaining students undertake the AQA combined award course

following the trilogy route. With the time for GCSE being extended over 3 years there will also be enrichment opportunities for students built in. Year 9 and 10 are currently following the new GCSE course with grading from 1 to 9.

At Key Stage 5 students can undertake A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. For September 2017 we are also introducing a new AQA Applied A level for the first time. The Sciences are popular and typically have run two A-level groups for each subject in each year.

Specialism and extra-curricular

Science is one of the school's core subjects. The department is fortunate to have its own ICT suite as well as a full set of computers in one of the labs, as well as a range of subject-related software. Developing resources and sharing good practice in ICT is an area of constant development within the department. All Science labs have Promethean interactive electronic whiteboards and access to a range of additional resources to enhance their use such as wireless mouse/keyboard, and student sets of activate response units. Three of our rooms also now have Smart boards.

Some staff in the department also have time allocated for running Outreach Master Classes with local primary schools, supporting colleagues in developing ICT across the curriculum, enhancing the curriculum through guest speakers and trips. The department offers a range of revision and support classes for students in examination years. There is a Science and Engineering club as well as a Biology/Chemistry club and we now run BA crest awards as well as Olympiad for all year 13 science students.

Examination Results

GCSE:

(Note top sets take separate sciences)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Science (2 GCSE) % A*-C</i>	<i>Biology % A*-C</i>	<i>Chemistry % A*-C</i>	<i>Physics % A*-C</i>
2014	59	97	97	100
2015	80	95	93	99
2016	62	98	97	100

GCE A Level:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Biology</i>		<i>Chemistry</i>		<i>Physics</i>	
	% A-C	% A-E	% A-C	% A-E	% A-C	% A-E
2014	88	100	93	100	72	96
2015	80	100	91	100	72	95
2016	75	100	81	100	68	100

Person Specification

Teacher of Chemistry - Main Pay Range / UPR

We are seeking to appoint a well-qualified, Teacher of Chemistry from September 2017. The successful candidate will be able to teach across the age and ability range at Key Stage 3 and at Key Stage 4 and the ability to teach chemistry to A Level.

The Weald is an outstanding, high achieving, popular and oversubscribed 11-18 comprehensive school, situated in the heart of the Sussex countryside. The school has an excellent record of academic and pastoral achievement and we pride ourselves in creating a caring and respectful ethos where every child is important. The school was judged to be “Outstanding in all areas” by Ofsted in November 2013. Progress 8 results place us in the top 5% of schools nationally.

You will:

- Well qualified (with Qualified Teacher Status) and enthusiastic teacher of Science
- Able and willing to teach across the age and ability range
- An ability to teach all Sciences to GCSE
- The ability to teach Chemistry to A level
- Commitment to high standards of achievement
- Commitment to teamwork and the further development of the Science department
- ICT literate
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Willingness to contribute to the pastoral system as a form tutor

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and to equality of opportunity. Enhanced DBS clearance is required for all successful applicants.
