



## **Science Department**

The Science department at St Benet Biscop has proven to be very successful over a number of years. There are currently 11 members of staff in the department who have worked together closely and collegiately to underpin the department's continued success. There is a Subject Leader and two Assistant Subject leaders for Science. We also have two Science Technicians and a dedicated LSA who helps support our SEND students throughout the key stages.

### **Key stage 3**

KS3 is a two year course (years 7 and 8) and students are banded based on KS2 average point scores in English and Maths. KS3 provision is currently 6 hour lessons per fortnight. Group sizes are on average 30 students per class. There are comprehensive schemes of work and resources available that have been developed based broadly on the AQA KS3 scheme of work and this has been adapted to build in many of the key 'How Science Works' skills that are so important at KS4. Problem solving and the application of skills play a key part in the scheme of work. Homework is set approximately every 4 lessons and the marking provides students with feedback which the students then respond to in the next lesson. Termly assessments are formally marked and levels reported home. The final summer assessment is used in part to help setting for the next academic year or key stage.

### **Key stage 4**

Currently we offer AQA GCSE courses in Chemistry, Biology and Physics and Combined Science - Trilogy. There are comprehensive schemes of work and resources available for every GCSE course. Currently the separate Science GCSEs students each have 5 hours per fortnight; the combined science course is taught across 10 hours per fortnight. Where possible teachers will be asked to teach their subject specialism. Students are set based on KS2 average point scores and their progress data from KS3. There are high expectations of students in Science and students are expected to exceed the average target grade predicted for them based on their KS2 data. Targeted intervention in and out of class is offered to help support our students to realise their potential and challenge under performance. Class sizes differ based on the ability of the students from approximately 30 students in the higher attaining sets to a maximum of 24 students in a lower attaining set. Student performance is under constant review. Termly assessments are formally marked and levels reported home. Homework is set approximately every 4 lessons weekly and students are provided with formative feedback which the students then responds to in the next lesson.

### **Key stage 5**

The department offers both AS and A2 level Chemistry, Biology and Physics. We follow the OCR syllabus in Chemistry and AQA Biology and Physics. Key Stage 5 provision is currently 9 hours per fortnight. A large proportion of students in the sixth form study Science A levels and many of these progress to science-based degrees.