



# Settle College

“BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE”

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## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AT SETTLE COLLEGE**

This is an excellent opportunity for the successful candidates to join a forward-thinking and supportive Department. Currently, our high performing team comprises of five well qualified, dedicated, innovative and adaptable science teachers and two highly skilled technicians.

Teachers are stationed in one lab filled with their own set of basic laboratory equipment. Four of the five laboratories were upgraded in 2012, when the College expanded to become an 11-18 school. The Department also comprises of two prep rooms and an office.

The Department is well resourced and has been successful in bidding for extra funding, as well as gaining financially by taking part in projects run by the University of Leeds' Department of Education and mentoring ITT students. In addition, last year, we were in receipt of a gift in memory of a former student, for the purchase of predominantly Physics equipment such as some Helmholtz Coils, a deflection tube and equipment used to demonstrate Boyle's Law amongst other items.

Students have access to a varied diet of learning experiences. Schemes of work are in place for all Year groups and are constantly being upgraded.

At Key Stage 3, we use an adapted version of the 'Science Works' scheme. This has been modified to meet the changes to the National Curriculum and to create a mastery based course, both in terms of scientific skills and subject content. The Key Stage 3 curriculum is engaging, exploratory and seamlessly segues into the GCSE course. Classes in Year 7 and Year 8 have six periods of science over the two weeks of the timetable; as far as possible, each class is taught by one teacher.

Key Stage 4 starts in the second term of Year 9 for students at Settle College. This year we used the first term to complete Key Stage 3, then we started the first units of the new OCR Twenty First Century Science GCSEs. The Department took part in the original Twenty First Century pilot and has a long, fruitful working partnership with both OCR and the University of York Science Education Group (UYSEG) developing specifications, teaching and examining materials. The majority of our students will be completing the Combined Science route, with one class in each Year group completing the Triple Science qualifications. The Scheme of Work at Key Stage 4 is adapted from OUP's Kerboodle resources. For each unit, subject specialists have modified the resources to enhance the pedagogy by adding rigor and regular assessments, in addition to effectively scaffolding to ensure our students can achieve the best grades possible. Our outcomes are consistently above national averages for all Key Stage 4 courses: as you can see from the table below, according to FFT Aspire, all of our Key Stage 4 results fit comfortably within the top 15% nationally. In 2016, A\*-A results for Biology and Chemistry were significantly above national, with the Physics results also above the national average. In addition, the A\*-C attainment for Core and Additional Science were also significantly above average. Furthermore our Science Progress 8 score was +0.70, for 2016, which means we are significantly above national average and in the top 10% of schools.

Subject A*-C	APS Ranking for Progress	Ranking for Progress
Biology	1	13
Chemistry	1	9
Physics	14	7
Science Additional	5	4
Science Core	12	9



Classes at Key Stage 4 have seven periods of Science in Year 9 per fortnight taught by either one or two teachers; nine periods per fortnight split between Biology, Chemistry and Physics specialists in Year 10 and, in Year 11, either 10 periods per fortnight if taking Combined Science or 12 per fortnight if taking Triple Award.

Biology, Chemistry and Physics are all offered at AS and A-Level. All three recruit well – classes in Year 12 are about 10 students for each subject; one of the benefits of a relatively small Sixth Form. We teach Salters Nuffield A-Level Biology, OCR Chemistry A and AQA Physics. The teaching of each A-Level is shared between two subject specialists.

We use our Key Stage 5 lessons to effectively prepare students for the demands of higher education by using flipped learning, co-construction and practicals, wherever possible. The Science Department's Key Stage 5 results are some of the best in the school and we strive to improve attainment and consistency within the Department every year.

We have established strong links with our feeder Primary schools; sessions are run by different members of the Department within the laboratories at Settle College. The Science Department also provides a wealth of learning opportunities to students outside of the classroom such as taking part in the Chemistry Olympiad, Science Week Workshops, CERN visits and the College Green Group. There will also be a conservation expedition to Honduras in summer 2018.

The Science Department at Settle is highly successful and ambitious. Staff at all levels work cohesively together, sharing ideas and resources with the common aim of continuing to improve teaching and learning, which is at the heart of all that we do.

**Jenny Nutter and Rafaella Ronchetti**  
**Co-Subject Leaders of Science**

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