The Science Department
at Becket Keys Church of England School

The team

We currently have ten Science teachers supported by three technicians, ranging from the very experienced to those in the early stages of their careers. The team is high functioning and high achieving with exceptional GCSE results in 2019. The department also has a thriving A Level offering and is the largest KS5 department in the school.

Teaching area

Science lessons are delivered across six fully equipped laboratories and two air-conditioned classrooms. All labs are well equipped for the delivery of the sciences across the key stages. All rooms have their own interactive whiteboard, supply of glassware, heating apparatus and more. We are equipped with a plethora of specialist equipment that assist in a curriculum driven by demonstrations and practical activities.

Curriculum, Assessment & Student Groupings

Science is taught in groups set by ability in all years. From Year 9 onwards students work on the GCSE specification and from Year 10, each class has a specialist Biology, Chemistry and Physics teacher. At KS3, students have 8 lessons a fortnight and at KS4 students have 4 lessons a fortnight in each Science. All Russell Education Trust (RET) schools use the same examination board for Science (AQA) to allow us to share schemes of work (SOW) and resources. At KS3 students follow a programme of study based on the AQA Big Ideas model. All students begin learning the triple Science course in Year 9 and appropriate course differentiation is reviewed at the end of Year 10. Our SOW integrates the new approach to KS4 right from the start of Year 7, with a particular emphasis on the practical SOW. As a result, our entire curriculum utilises a practical approach to teaching Science, allowing for rapid progress and high engagement across all year groups. Assessment also fits in with the new Science curriculum, with a strong emphasis on assessment of practical skills mixed with end of term tests on content.

At KS5, we offer courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics with the OCR exam board. We aim to use more than the minimum required practical activities over the two years at A-Level in order to give students a wide-ranging experience to take into their exams. We currently have two Biology classes, one Chemistry class and one Physics class in both Year 12 and Year 13. The sciences continue to be a highly popular choice at A Level.

We are constantly reviewing resources from our respective exam boards in order to keep abreast of updates and changes, particularly to the required practicals.

Professional Development

We take our CPD seriously, as all of us can develop our generic and subject-specific expertise. A wealth of experience within the department mean that meetings focus on sharing ideas, jointly planning lessons, moderating assessments and generally making ourselves better at teaching Science. We benefit from work scrutiny, learning walks, and longer observations by RET advisors and our senior team, which help us focus on what works well and where we need to adjust our practice. The RET Science network provides opportunities for Trust-wide training, and collaboration with Science departments in four other RET schools.