



# St Philomena's

## Catholic High School for Girls

### **ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

The Science Department is a vibrant department which strives to deliver the highest quality of Teaching and Learning. The Department consistently achieves results significantly above National Average. The Department's progress value added in Summer 2018 was in the second highest quintile nationally at GCSE as evidenced on the Assessing School's Performance (ASP) data and offers a wealth of opportunities for professional development.

The Science Department is housed in eleven laboratories, including two brand new labs which were opened last academic year. There are ten full-time and two part-time teaching staff and as of this year they all teach Science to KS4 and then KS5 teachers deliver one Specialism at A Level. The Department is supported by three technicians (one for each of the sciences).

The Science Department has been restructured to plan for the new curriculum changes. At present we have two lead practitioners responsible for Key Stages 3 and 4 and a Key Stage 5 coordinator. We are now looking to expand our team of lead practitioners and recruit a lead practitioner with the responsibility for KS5. The lead practitioners have a collective responsibility for developing the teaching and learning in the department and in addition have responsibility for ensuring the successful delivery of their respective Key Stage. This involves:

- Coordinating the writing and resourcing of Schemes of Work
- Coordinating all Required Practical Work.
- Monitoring the quality of Teaching and Learning and working with the Subject Leader of Science to disseminate good practice and support staff
- Ensuring regular, rigorous Assessment of students is carried out to enable effective monitoring of progress
- Implementation and monitoring of suitable strategies to raise achievement of all students
- Developing a stimulating and relevant extra-curricular programme

There is a strong emphasis on creating a challenging and stimulating learning environment for our students. Since September 2016 Key Stage 3 has become a two year course taught in Years 7 and 8 allowing for much greater flexibility at Key Stage 4. The department has established links to enrich students learning experiences via extra curricular activities and trips such as Year 12 Chemistry Lectures at Sutton Grammar, A Level Biology lectures in London and a Year 7 trip to National History Museum.

Currently, at KS4, each group is taught three double lessons per week for Combined Science and seven lessons a week for Triple in Year 10 and 11 and four lessons a week in Year 9. We have been working over recent years to strengthen the department by recruiting teachers with more than one Science subject Specialism up to KS4 to enable the curriculum to be delivered to a high standard with consistency across all 3 subjects. Our most able students study three separate sciences for GCSE. We have been developing our new Schemes of Learning to make them more challenging and imaginative in content whilst bringing teaching strategies such as flipped learning to engage the students. Following the most recent curriculum changes to KS4, we are following the AQA Science.

The Department also offers A levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and the new AQA General Applied Science with an increasing number of students taking up these courses each year.

Every member of staff receives a Chromebook and students in Years 10 and 11 have an iPad in lessons using the Anytime, Anywhere Learning Scheme and Year 7 to 9 a chromebook.

