



# THE SCIENCE FACULTY

**The science faculty fosters a love of science and enquiry and encourages students to think systematically and ask scientific questions.**

We are an experienced and academic faculty with a wide range of individual specialisms and interests. We currently have ten science teachers three of whom are senior leaders at Talbot Heath. We have teachers skilled across the three main specialisms with expertise in many areas. All teachers teach across KS3 and KS4 with the majority also delivering A level. We have three skilled experienced technicians. The science faculty is housed in a purpose-built science block with six laboratories. The faculty is well resourced. Students are taught in form groups until year 9 and then set according to ability for years 9 to 11.

Science is taught in the Talbot Heath Senior School from year 6 to year 13, with year 6 visiting from the junior school for 6 lessons per fortnight, they study six chapters from the Pearson Exploring Science. Years 7 and 8 study the remaining twenty-four chapters of Exploring Science across two years in preparation for GCSE which begins in Year 9. At GCSE, Talbot Heath follows OCR Gateway, in year 9 the student has twelve lessons across a fortnight divided between biology, chemistry and physics. Topics that are covered are common to both Triple Science and Combined GCSE.

In the spring of year 9 students opt for either Triple Science or Combined science with approximately 60% choosing to study three separate GCSEs in Science. Triple science has six lessons per fortnight per subject, combined has four. Classes are usually of 16 students or smaller.

In most cases the GCSE specification has been completed by Christmas of year 11 allowing students time to renew, revise and deepen understanding in the spring term for thorough exam preparation. It is usual for students to sit the higher tier. In the first year of GCSE graded 9-1 the results for Talbot Heath were very pleasing with an outstanding number of students achieving grades 8 and 9 and students for whom science is more challenging attaining good grades.

At A level science attracts and retains many students. The specifications followed are also OCR. Each A level is taught by two teachers with a total of eleven lessons across the fortnight. Students leave Talbot Heath for further education in areas such as medicine and engineering as well natural science.

STEM is a well-attended and high achieving extra-curricular area, students from Talbot Heath often win competitions and attend many events.



## Talbot Heath

*Independent School for Girls aged 3-18*

