

## Subject Leader - Science

### A note from the Headteacher

In September 2015 I took on the role of Headteacher at Stocksbridge High School and have felt privileged to have been given this opportunity since that day. The school is set at the heart of its community and I am passionate that we serve this community and its children to the best of our ability every day.

The school had experienced significant changes in leadership prior to my appointment and myself and the governors have worked hard to provide greater stability in the school. Governors and myself were also keen to secure the long term future of the school. In doing so, following an 18-month research period, the school made a commitment to join the Minerva Learning Trust. The trust is based around an outstanding local secondary school (Handsworth Grange Community Sports College). It is planned that this will grow to a MAT of five Sheffield based secondary schools by April 2018. All five schools have worked at governor level to develop the MAT together. These schools are now working together actively at all levels to support school improvement. This is an exciting time at school and for the MAT as a whole. The vision for the MAT is that all the schools will work increasingly collaboratively, but will retain their independent status and ethos.

Our most recent Ofsted (July 2016) acknowledges that the governors and the new Headteacher are ambitious for the students and have a clear understanding of the schools strengths, and how to tackle its weaknesses.

In September 2016 we launched a new pastoral system led by four Heads of House. Each leads a team or tutors, who in turn lead forms of approximately 20 students. The groups are vertical and are designed to create strong relationships with students and their families.

Our OFSTED position is one we are keen to improve. We are continuing to strengthen leadership at all levels to support school improvement and this process is heavily integrated with our new MAT.

### Science Department

The Science department is made up of enthusiastic and dedicated teachers and technicians. We are always looking to improve on student progress and achievement and last year's results showed progress made by students in science was usually on or slightly above national average.

The Science department aims to give all students an appreciation of the workings of the world around them, the ability to use the scientific method and an understanding of the ethical, moral and environmental consequences of human actions. To make our subject even more relevant to our students, improve our own teaching and learning and challenge students to meet their potential we have been writing new 'mastery' schemes of learning for all year groups.

The passion, subject knowledge and skill of each member of the department has resulted in significant success across key stage 3 and 4 and the post-16 uptake of science is high and continually rising.



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The department is well resourced with equipment, reagents and IT facilities. We have six labs which are well equipped with class sets of all basic glassware, heating apparatus and safety equipment. The five main labs are large with gas, water and electric supply and three of them able to make use of a fume cupboard. We have a large central prep-room connected to all labs which is managed by our senior technician and very well resourced. Teachers have access to computers in the prep-room to support planning and teaching time is mostly timetabled to a single room with little need for swapping. We have access to two class sets of laptops and netbooks as well as a breakout area with several computers. We use ICT resources such as Kerboodle, Multimedia Science, Birchfield Interactive Software and e-Chalk. Every lab contains a new Promethean Interactive Whiteboard with multi- touch functionality for student engagement. Many of the labs offer exceptional views of Stocksbridge and the local countryside!

At Key stage 3 we follow a bespoke mastery scheme of learning which covers fundamental GCSE content and skills that underpin the advanced GCSE content taught in year 9, 10 and 11. Our GCSE exam board is AQA and the majority of our students study double award science however many are encourage to join the triple science groups during their year 9 options choice. The current courses we offer to our students are Double award (most chosen and expected), Triple award (for a number of high ability students – still very popular) and an entry level certificate science over two years (a very small number of students unlikely to achieve a GCSE grade). We also have strong working relationships with the Hallam Teaching School Alliance based at Notre Dame as well as Sheffield Hallam University.

The Science department also offers extra-curricular activities as well as early morning and afterschool revision sessions. We have had four years of running successful and popular astronomy evenings using our two telescopes and we are looking to bring back a weekly science club for key stage 3 students. We run trips to Science Live events, Science Challenge events, Christmas lectures and field work sites such as Chester Zoo, the local community, universities and Filey beach.

The successful candidate will be expected to teach across the ages of 11 to 16 years and a wide ability range and should be committed to student progress, be passionate about teaching and learning and inspire young learners with innovation, challenge and engagement. The successful candidate will be expected to be a committed member of what is a dynamic, hardworking and friendly team, producing resources and sharing innovative ideas and approaches to the teaching of Science.



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## About Stocksbridge High School

Stocksbridge High School is a popular, thriving 11-16 comprehensive, situated eleven miles north of Sheffield. Staff are drawn from all areas of South and West Yorkshire and into Manchester. Our greatest asset lies in our people – a wonderful team of enthusiastic students, committed staff and supportive parents and governors. We value the contributions that each person brings. We are passionate about making school life enjoyable and challenging, providing varied opportunities for learning and securing the highest possible levels of achievement for each and every student. We believe our students deserve every opportunity to flourish, not solely in academic pursuits, but emotionally, socially, spiritually and culturally. We seek to ensure that every student develops vital transferable skills for life and work that will allow them to become active, informed and responsible citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In March 2014, OFSTED inspected the school against the rigorous framework introduced in 2012 and judged the school to be 'Requires Improvement'.

In July 2016 our OFSTED report highlighted the progress that had been made and reported that...

- Pupils say that they are safe in school. There are high-quality safeguarding procedures in place to protect pupils, especially the most vulnerable
- There is a climate of respect and tolerance throughout the school. Relationships between pupils and adults are good
- Pupils enjoy the many opportunities to take on roles of responsibilities and contribute to the school
- The new Headteacher has the full support of staff in his efforts to strengthen the work of the school. Morale is high and the school is improving
- Governors and the new Headteacher are ambitious for the pupils, and have a clear understanding of the school's strengths and how to tackle its weaknesses.

However, we have much to do to move the school to where it should be.

## Our Community and Facilities

Stocksbridge is a community school, serving a semi-rural township of approximately 17,000. We currently have over 800 students on roll, the majority of who come from three local primary schools. LA projections indicate that we will be full at 900 students within three years.

We are proud of our strengths, but are also open about the ways in which we can improve. We believe in a commitment to continuous improvement, shared by students and staff, as we want our community to be a place where everyone is challenged and supported to achieve their potential.

The governors, staff and students take pride in their school and this is reflected in and around the school building and site. January 2013 saw the completion of a BSF programme, bringing us the benefits of a 70% new build and 30% refurbishment on our existing site. We moved into our new building accommodating Maths, English, Science and ICT, Music, a performance plaza, drama studio, a large learning resource area, social areas and attractive catering facilities in January 2012.

*Stocksbridge High School is part of the Minerva Learning Trust*





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In September 2012 we moved back into a fully refurbished block which accommodates Design Technology, R.E., History, Geography, MFL, Art and Learning Support. We are now fortunate to work and learn these new facilities.

## **Our Curriculum – inside and outside the classroom**

Our curriculum is planned and constantly reviewed to ensure that we provide students with the best progression to life after their time with us. We are committed to quality teaching across a broad range of subjects in order to develop not only the academic potential of our students, but also as a platform to building the wider skills needed for life.

As part of our annual curriculum review we have to reflect upon the external demands of governmental changes and the way our school is judged. However, we will continue to reflect the needs of students

We are particularly proud to be a pilot school in the 'Cutlers' Made in Sheffield Programme' which is an innovative project built on strong partnerships between schools and leading employers. The project helps students to identify and strengthen the skills that they acquire and develop through school and to enable them to see how they will serve them in the world of work. Young people develop great confidence in themselves, a sense of great pride in the traditions of their city and a real enthusiasm for the opportunities ahead of them.

A school is not just about what happens in lessons, and at Stocksbridge High School we aim to provide our students with a variety of experiences that enhance our curriculum and ensures that learning continues outside of the classroom. The performance and visual arts flourish through art shows, orchestras and student-run talent contests. Classroom learning is reinforced through fieldwork both in the UK and abroad. Trips and visits are offered to enrich the classroom experience.

We offer a full programme of lunchtime and after school clubs for students such as Computer programming and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Our PE department provides a range of extra-curricular sports and activities, and successful sporting teams provide our students with opportunities to compete and enjoy the thrill of success, which we do regularly both at all levels. We are always looking to develop the range of extra-curricular activities that we provide, so if you can offer anything please let us know.

## **Staff Development and Professional Learning**

At Stocksbridge High School we are fully committed to lifelong learning. We know that the continuing professional development of all staff is crucial to keep our school moving forward. We value our partnership with the Hallam Teaching School Alliance, with whom we work to train the teachers of the future while providing high quality support for the professional development of our existing staff. Many of the teachers who have trained with us have been appointed to the school. In addition to the induction programme for new teachers, there are a variety of other opportunities for colleagues to develop, consolidate and share their skills. Examples of this include further study on courses, opportunities to learn from visits to other schools, by shadowing staff, or contributing to a variety of teaching and learning forums here at school, including the acclaimed 'lesson study' approach.

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Our team of 'Lead Learners' are a driving force for both CPD and developments in Teaching and Learning.

We hope that this introduction has given you a flavour of the community and opportunities here at Stocksbridge High. The school has a genuinely friendly and welcoming atmosphere. If you feel you can work with us to provide a great learning experience for our students and contribute to our future success, then we will be delighted to receive your application.

## Key Facts

Number of students Y7 – Y11	847	
SEN Support	179	21.13%
SEN Statement	9	1.06%
Looked After Children	4	0.47%
Number of students with an EHCP	3	0.35%
Pupil Premium	244	28.80%
Fixed Term Exclusions per year (2015/16)	75	

Our SEN register is currently being revised in line with new legislation.

We expect our pp figure to rise in the coming year due to changes in the way in which FSM applications are made in Sheffield.

## KS3 Curriculum

Students study a broad and balanced curriculum comprising of Art, Drama, D&T, English, French, Geography, History, ICT, Maths, Music, PE., PSHE, RE and Science

## KS4 Curriculum

All students study English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science (either as double or triple award) as compulsory GCSE subjects. Students choose from the following subjects: History and Geography, and five or six subjects from Art, Computer Science/ICT, Drama, D&T (Food and Nutrition, Product Design and Engineering), French, Geography, History, Music, P.E., RE, Sociology and Spanish.

## KS4 Attainment

<i>Subject</i>	<i>2016 GCSE Results</i>		
	<i>Entries</i>	<i>% A* - C</i>	<i>% A* - G</i>
Art	45	62.2	100
Computer Science	23	65.2	100
Drama	43	69.8	100
English Language	151	61.6	100
English Literature	150	68.0	100
French	19	78.9	100
Geography	71	64.8	100
History	66	68.2	100
ICT	27	66.7	100
Maths	151	62.9	96.0
Music	11	45.5	100
P.E.	21	28.6	100
R.E.	149	63.1	99.3
Science – Biology	30	96.7	100
Science – Chemistry	30	100	100
Science – Double Award	98	62.2	100
Science – Physics	30	100	100
Science – Core	117	55.6	100
Sociology	25	60.0	100
Spanish	5	100	100
Technology – Food	14	50.0	100
Technology – Resistant Materials	22	54.5	100
BTEC – Engineering	25	84.0	100
ECDL	6	100	100
Health & Social Care	21	14.3	100



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## How to apply

Application forms and further details can be obtained from the school website or by emailing Sara Bailey [sbailey13@stocksbridgehigh.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:sbailey13@stocksbridgehigh.sheffield.sch.uk). Completed application forms should be returned to Sara Bailey on the email address above not later than **Friday 9 February 2019**.

Interviews are scheduled to take place on **Wednesday 28 February 2018**.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Adrian Smith  
Headteacher