

**The Department**

The Science department is the largest department in this outstanding school and consequently it should come as no surprise that we enjoy an excellent record of exam success. Clearly a significant part of this success is a result of the overall ethos of the school, but the key factor is the quality of teaching within the department and the willingness of the staff to take individual (although supported) responsibility for the progress of their pupils. The teaching staff vary significantly in terms of experience, teaching style and personality and this diversity is one of the strengths of the department.

The department is fortunate to be housed in its own area of the school and currently benefits from 10 large, well-designed laboratories, with a rolling refurbishment programme due to start soon. All laboratories are equipped with LCD projectors and and staff are provided with a laptop. In addition to the laboratories, the department also has several prep. rooms and an office / work area. Teachers are supported by three technicians, a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and some additional administrative support.

The successful candidate would teach Science throughout Key Stages 3 and 4 and, for an appropriately qualified candidate, there will be the possibility of teaching at Sixth Form level. GCSE groups are generally taught by two teachers (usually of different specialisms) who then share the whole of the GCSE content. This means that, over the two year course, teachers will teach within their specialism for approximately 2/3 of the time although there is an expectation that candidates will be both willing and able to teach any of the Sciences up to GCSE level.

In Key Stage 3 pupils receive three hours of Science lessons per week and are generally taught by a single teacher. There is therefore no separate Science teaching at this level but individual modules are clearly identifiable as being Biology, Chemistry or Physics. The department teaches according to its own schemes of work which are designed to indicate clearly the material which should be taught and to offer some suggestions regarding suitable approaches, although the responsibility for planning individual lessons lies with the class teacher. To support the schemes we have a large number of electronic resources stored on the school network (some commercial but the majority written by our teachers) and class sets can be printed directly to our own high volume printers.

Provision at KS4 depends on the best interests of the pupils. The vast majority of pupils begin GCSE working towards separate qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, with a total of 6 hours of Science teaching per week. Depending on progress and assessment results, some of these pupils will change to a Double Award Combined Science provision later in the course. A small number of pupils work towards Double Science from the outset.

At Sixth Form level, the department is highly popular, with large numbers of students opting to study Science courses (we currently offer A-level Biology, Psychology, Chemistry and Physics and a Level 3 Applied Science course). Many of these students go on to continue their Science studies at university and we are proud of the number of Science undergraduates we have produced in recent years.

For a new teacher the post will offer the opportunity to gain a first class insight into how Science can be taught in a manner which is traditional, enjoyable and accessible, whilst also providing opportunities to develop an individual style. For more experienced teachers there is the chance to introduce new ideas and contribute to the further development of Science teaching within an outstanding school.