

THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Context

The Science department at Valentines plays a key role in raising attainment and improving the life chances of the students. Attainment is well above the national average. The school serves a diverse multi-cultural intake, where over 80% of pupils have English as an additional language. All science staff have to be skilled communicators and all new staff, at whatever level, attend accredited training in teaching EAL learners. Attitudes towards Science lessons are very positive. Behaviour in the school is noted as excellent, with parents and students having an appreciation of a good Science education. With the award of Teaching School status in September 2011 opportunities for involvement in CPD and ITT have opened up for the department.

Structure

The Science department consists of a Head of Department, A Lead Teacher, a Head of Chemistry, a Head of Biology, Head of Physics, a Head of KS4 & Head of KS3. There are ten Science teachers.

The department enjoys excellent facilities, with 13 laboratories and a new Science demonstration classroom. There is a generous allowance of prep rooms and laboratory support.

All laboratories enjoy excellent ICT facilities with interactive whiteboards. Lessons are planned/stored using a VLE. Classes are set from year 9-11. All students take at least Combined Science GCSE, with top sets taking separate Sciences.

Science GCSE results are traditionally well above national average and students achieve well in both GCSE and A-Level.

The sixth form is very large for a 6 FE school, (370 students). Sciences are the most popular subjects post 16. Biology and Chemistry are popular subjects at school with 2 groups in both Year 12 and 13.

The department is very harmonious with entirely permanent and experienced staff. Positive relationships have been a feature of the department for some time and the department embodies the school motto of In Harmony, Achieving Excellence.

This is a truly exceptional opportunity in an outstanding school.