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| **Science Department Description** |

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| **Information for Applicants** |
| Brooke Weston Academy is an innovative, nationally acclaimed educational establishment. Our philosophy and approach is embedded in student-centred learning, underpinned by a structured framework of assessment that has differentiation and personalisation at its heart. Opened in 1991, Brooke Weston Academy has consistently appeared in the top rank of state comprehensive schools. On average this year 89% in Year 11 achieved GCSEs graded A\*-C (9-4) with 28% gaining A\*/A (9-7) grades. 84% of students in year 11 achieved five or more GCSEs graded A\*-C including maths and English (9-4). 51% of students achieved the English Baccalaureate with maths and English grades 9-5. In Year 13 students achieved 99% pass rate with 62% gaining A\*/A or B grades.  Brooke Weston Academy has exceptionally high standards and works hard to preserve the ethos, which places the student at the heart of the learning experience. Our OfSTED report of January 2011 confirmed Brooke Weston Academy’s outstanding reputation and highlighted, amongst other aspects, the positive relationships between staff and students and the outstanding learning opportunities available. |
| **The Departmental Structure** |
| A team of four technicians supports the teaching of fourteen science teachers. Learning takes place in a block of ten modern purpose built laboratories. Four of these are designed to accommodate two double classes. All laboratories have recently been enhanced to provide excellent facilities including built in video and Internet access and interactive screens. There are two preparation rooms and associated storerooms. Additionally, the department benefits from whole Academy facilities, which include a modern lecture theatre, video and digital cameras, video conferencing suite and a library/resource centre. |
| **Teaching and Learning** |
| Students are taught in mixed ability groups at all key stages. To fully involve them in their learning, students are provided with a programme of study at the beginning of each term. Their work is carefully monitored and assessed regularly and students are involved in individual target setting and further development of their skills. There is targeted and focused support in place for those students who struggle with science and also for the ablest students. A variety of teaching styles are utilised within the department that keep the student at the centre of learning. |
| **Courses** |
| At Brooke Weston, Science is a core subject. The department provides:   * A two-year Key Stage 3 science course written for our Year 7 & 8 students based around the Edexcel KS3 syllabus. * Years 9 to 11 follow the EDEXCEL Combined and Separate Sciences GCSE. * Approximately a third of the student cohort take biology, chemistry and physics as separate sciences. * At Key Stage 5 the majority of students choose to study A Levels in the separate sciences. * The A level courses followed are: EDEXCEL Salters Nuffield Advanced Biology, OCR B Salters Chemistry and EDEXCEL Physics (Salters Horners)   Students also have open access to study areas equipped with PC computers. Two study areas are situated within the department each equipped with ten computers. There are over four hundred computers available for student use throughout the Academy. |