

The Science Department

A team of seven dedicated people teach the Science curriculum. Each has been appointed with a particular subject expertise in order to act as a consultant when others might be teaching out of their specialisms, and to oversee subject specific curriculum development. Generally, most development and planning within the department is undertaken by the whole team or small groups after consultation. The enthusiasm and experience brought to such teamwork is one of the department's key strengths. Staff development is an important issue within the Science Department and staff are encouraged to take on responsibilities when this is felt appropriate. This appointment will make the team up to eight as the school grows in popularity.

Throughout KS3, staff teach all science areas and usually keep their groups for two years. Science based setting occurs for Year 8 and 9 groups in order to ensure a suitable response to individual needs and appropriate GCSE preparation. In KS4, groups are also setted and learn from the specialist for each Science area. Staff are responsible for the continual maintenance, update and delivery of subject specific modules.

All KS3 students are taught the National Curriculum. Teachers are expected to use a variety of teaching strategies and to respond to the needs of groups and individuals. The curriculum is delivered through an adapted 'Activate' course. For KS4 two pathways are available; the majority of students follow the AQA Trilogy course, whilst one or more of the top groups do the Triple Science course. For both key stages formal assessment and formative feedback is key to monitoring and improving student performance.

Science is taught in seven purpose built laboratories, fully equipped with interactive whiteboards and sound field systems; an eighth lab will be ready for September 2019.

