

**LAWRENCE SHERIFF SCHOOL**

**A National Teaching School**

**THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

The Science Faculty consists of one part-time and ten full-time graduate scientists, with specialists in all three sciences. The management structure consists of the Head of Biology, Head of Chemistry and Head of Physics, who is also the Science Faculty Coordinator.

Students join the school in Year 7 and are taught combined science via our in-built scheme of work throughout Years 7 and 8. In Years 9, 10 and 11 specialist teachers deliver the Edexcel Triple Science scheme to all students, leading to three separate GCSE Science Awards. The school then has a strong tradition of science in the Sixth Form, with 3-4 groups for each Science in Years 12 and 13, including a substantial number of students joining us from other schools in the area in order to take sciences at A Level. Currently, each faculty uses a different examination board (biology with OCR, chemistry with AQA, and physics with Edexcel).

At GCSE, examination results have improved enormously, with all three sciences achieving 70-80% Grade 7 to 9. The number of students studying sciences in the Sixth Form has increased considerably over this time, with similarly high results at A Level and many students going on to attend top universities to read STEM related subjects.

The Biology department has a reputation for being an ‘open access’ department; students are regularly found chatting to staff and their peers about the subject outside of lesson time. OCR praised the department for large number of opportunities given to students for practical, investigative work. A large number of our students go on to Biology based Higher Education; particularly medicine, veterinary Science, biochemistry and biomedical science.

In the Chemistry department our aim is to facilitate a love of chemistry for the students, based on a desire to learn about how the technological and natural world works leading them to develop the problem solving skills and attributes for lifelong learning which they need for their chosen paths after leaving the school. We pride ourselves in carrying out a full range of experiments across all year groups and we endeavour to give students completing the A-Level hands on experience with the widest range of scientific equipment possible to ensure the best start for them if they choose to go on to study a laboratory-based subject after being at the school.

In Physics, we aim to foster a strong sense of curiosity, with students encouraged to learn problem solving skills that will become relevant in their future careers. By including a range of practical activities, challenging tasks in lessons and pushing towards degree level problems in class, we strive to ensure that our students are best prepared for going on to become the engineers, physicists and mathematicians of the future.

Science teaching takes place in the appropriate specialist laboratories; there are currently two specialist laboratories for each of the sciences and two multi-purpose laboratories split between the three departments. Each pair of laboratories has its own preparation area and equipment storage facilities, and we have a team of two full-time laboratory technicians. All eight laboratories are equipped with data projectors and internet access. You would be joining the school at an exciting time as we are about to embark on a multi-million-pound expansion project which will include a brand-new purpose-built science block which will house all three sciences together.

The Science Faculty is a close knit, friendly and supportive team. Subject specialism is our strength, although teachers are expected to teach all three sciences in Years 7 and 8.

In a November 2007 Ofsted inspection, the school was identified as ‘an outstandingly successful school’ having been assessed as outstanding in all 42 Ofsted categories.

As a department we aim to build on our past successes and innovate for the future. This is a department which has no intention of resting on its laurels. The last year has provided many new challenges and we are confident that the Science Team has the ability and the enthusiasm to meet anything we come up against.

Mr Scott A Littler (Head of Chemistry)

Mrs Bronia Costello (Head of Biology)

Mr Peter Tweedale (Head of Physics, Science Faculty Coordinator)

03.02.2021