

SHELDON SCHOOL



Science

SCIENCE FACULTY

The Science Faculty at Sheldon School is a well-established, friendly and mutually supportive team with a proven track record of excellence in both GCSE and A-level examinations.

The high standards in science have been achieved by a skilled team of eleven full-time and six part-time teachers, supported by six technicians (both full and part time). The science faculty aims to provide an appropriate, stimulating and challenging science education for all, giving pupils the opportunity to fulfil their potential at all stages of their progression through the curriculum. High expectations are placed on pupils but this is matched by good working relationships, support and encouragement.

CURRICULUM

KS3: All students follow a broad and balanced science course based on the Exploring Science programme of study which emphasises skills development and the teaching of science through scenarios and collaborative learning.

The KS3 programme is taught over two years to allow an early start to KS4 in Year 9. This allows sufficient lesson time to offer separate sciences for able pupils and encourage better progression for all students, supporting equality to maximise each individual pupil's potential regardless of background.

Emphasis is placed on practical work and developing the scientific process skills within a problem solving context. Pupils are encouraged to:

- generate their own ideas and hypothesis
- develop their own experimental plans
- construct "fair tests" showing variables have been identified and controlled
- record their results in the most appropriate way
- interpret their results
- communicate their work in a variety of ways e.g. orally, project work, poster displays and occasional formal written reports

KS4: Begins in Year 9 with pupils following a GCSE route. All KS4 routes are flexible to offer individualised learning pathways for every student to achieve their best. We follow the AQA Trilogy and Separate Science Specification for GCSE Science and build on the skills developed at KS3. A small number of students also follow the ELC in addition to Trilogy Science.

KS5: We currently offer A-level courses in Biology, Chemistry, Environmental science, Health and Social Care and Physics. The department is very flexible in the courses offered and we are constantly looking for the most appropriate courses for our students.

FACILITIES

The department is housed primarily in one level area of the school, which includes 12 well equipped and modern laboratories with an additional A level laboratory in the Sixth Form block. The department has invested heavily in ICT and is supported with a vast range of multimedia software for extended learning opportunities, two laptop trolleys, two IPAD trolleys and an ICT suite. All 13 laboratories are on the school's network and have an interactive white board and 'magic eye' projector.

ENRICHMENT

The school is committed to the enrichment of the learning experience of our pupils both within and outside the curriculum. We strongly believe in extracurricular provision and have teams competing in numerous national competitions over the year. We run a very successful Year 7 science fair along with a Year 8 science day, Year 9 STEM careers day. The Science Faculty is involved with our Industry Partners and the Neighbourhood Engineers and we regularly have visiting speakers from industry.

Faculty

Management of the faculty is organised through the Head of Faculty and four other staff with responsibility allowances which include KS3, KS4, Intervention and Enrichment. Other members of the faculty have non-remunerative responsibilities. All members of the faculty contribute fully to developments through all key stages, particularly advising colleagues concerning their specialist areas of science.

The team has a great mix of experienced teachers, all open to new ideas, who are very sociable and supportive of each other. We are keen to appoint a highly motivated, talented teacher to maintain and build upon our current high standards and performance. We are very proud of our examination results and consider teamwork to be a key feature of our success.

January 2019