

THE TEAM /FACILITIES

The department consists of 17 full time teachers and 5 part time working in well-resourced groups of 11 (Newport Pagnell) and 5 (Olney) laboratories. There is excellent support from a team of 6 laboratory technicians. There are 5 main preparation rooms in total, 3 of which are associated with a subject specialist area for Sixth Form teaching.

KEY STAGE 3

From October in Yr7, students are taught in sets based on ability for 3 hours per week. Students carry out a variety of topics to improve their science skills and to prepare them fully for the content and practical demands of their KS4 studies. During year 9, students will be told whether they are studying triple science (the majority of students) or combined science (with the final decisions being made at the end of year 10). After Christmas Year 9 start revising for end of year exams and then prepare themselves for GCSE studies. In each year students also get to select a 6 hour optional unit, where staff can offer a program of study in a specialist area of science such as forensic, meteorology or the science of formula 1.

KEY STAGE 4

Key Stage 4 starts in year 10 and students build on the work covered at Key Stage 3 in order to further develop their skills and knowledge in preparation for their GCSEs as per AQA specifications.

The majority of students will follow the AQA triple route studying for 6 hours per week in years 10 and 11, each lesson is 60 minutes long. Those studying combined will have 4 hours per week. Resources are being enhanced continually to provide additional differentiated materials to complement learning. Results for triple students are always very good and often outstanding.

SIXTH FORM

The sciences are very successful options in the Sixth Form, with 100% pass rates at A2. The increased popularity of separate sciences at GCSE level is resulting in a stronger uptake of Sciences in the 6th Form. Each year, a significant number of students go on to study science, engineering and medical degree courses at prestigious universities including Oxbridge and other Russell group institutions. According to data all three science A levels deliver outstanding results and nationally we are amongst the top schools for our A level results.

PHYSICS

The AQA course incorporates 3 core modules and one option from Astronomy & Optics, Particle Physics or Medical Physics. Students are encouraged to attend lectures and undertake visits off site to enhance their learning about the subject.

CHEMISTRY

This is a popular course which has obtained consistently high pass rates following the AQA course. An Advanced Chemistry Club is held each week after School. Various Chemistry enrichment events are run through the year in addition to various Royal Society of Chemistry trips.

BIOLOGY

This is a very popular subject both at AS and A2 levels results are consistently high. The AQA specification and consists of 3 units in each year and include biology and disease, genetics, environmental science and various aspects of physiology.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

APPLIED SCIENCE LEVEL 3 BTEC

Learners are given the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised vocational qualification to enter employment in sectors that have a basis in science or to progress to higher education qualifications. Aspects of biology, chemistry and physics are covered in the course which is assessed by means of a portfolio of work.

OUTSIDE THE SCIENCE TIMETABLE

Due to science being such a vast and interesting subject, our aim in science is to enthuse as many future scientists as possible. This is why we run our own school competitions, as well as entering many local and national competitions for STEM and Crest awards to Chemistry Olympiads. We also offer various aspire sessions at all Key Stages and enrichment sessions, with kitchen science being a very popular session.