Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College

Science Faculty Information

The Science faculty is a progressive, hard-working and forward thinking faculty, comprised of 19 members of teaching staff, of which four are part time. The team is supported by a dedicated technician team of four and a Departmental Support Assistant. The leadership structure includes the following posts: Head of Science Faculty, Head of Biology and KS4 Coordinator (second in faculty), Head of Physics and KS5 Coordinator, 11-14 Coordinator, Vocational Science Coordinator, Head of Chemistry and a Closing the Gap & Required Practical Coordinator. The structure is part of an on-going evaluation and has been planned as a way of maintaining and further improving current progress and to continue an upward trend both in the quality of teaching and learning across the faculty and the attainment and progress of students across all key stages and abilities.

We currently have one computer suite and 13 Science laboratories, each of which is equipped with an interactive whiteboard, a computer which is linked to the internet and SIMS network for registration and data purposes. All colleagues in the faculty benefit from our own workroom, which is equipped with three computers linked to the school network and the internet. The workroom, as well as providing space for preparation and marking, is a source of support and an area used during break times. The faculty also has two technician preparation rooms.

**Key Stage 3**

All classes in Key Stage 3 have four fifty minute lessons of Science per week. Our faculty operates different setting systems in different year groups and is led by the 11-14 Coordinator.

We approach the challenge of developing scientific skills with enthusiasm and determination to ensure we embed them from KS3. Annual reviews and improvements to our schemes of work are made to ensure we can continue to build and improve on existing good practice. We plan in a collegiate manner and share resources and good practice openly. The schemes of work follow the AQA KS3 specification with APP integrated within medium term plans, lesson plans and differentiated resources. The course offers a variety of teaching and learning experiences, engaging students in the subject. Students are assessed through formative assessments and thresholds.

We have many extra-curricular activities on offer to KS3 students. Both students and staff alike particularly enjoy celebrating Science Week with guest speakers, competitions for staff and students, themed assemblies and special after-school clubs. We also run a weekly science club for Y7 & Y8 and a STEM club for Y8 and Y9 students. Students also have opportunities to visit places such as the nearby Yorkshire Wildlife Park and Alton Towers to enrich the curriculum.

The faculty has good cross-phase liaison with its Primary feeder schools, with students attending Science lessons during Y6 induction days. At the end of the key stage, students perform well. We have devised our own end of key stage test which links the KS3 topics to GCSE skills and examination content.

**Key Stage 4**

In Years 9, 10 & 11, students are organised into bands depending on students’ option choices. Students have four fifty minute lessons in Y9 and six fifty minute lessons a week in Y10 and Y11 with the exception of students taking triple Science as an option and those who follow off-site provision.

We currently teach the AQA specification. We have one group in each of Y10 and Y11 who are completing the Triple Science award.

Students are taught by subject specialists and the emphasis on all learning is the application and integration of How Science Works (HSW). With the new specifications we have, and continue to develop, the schemes of work in a similar way to KS3, with collegiate planning and the HSW skills being embedded within medium term plans and resources.

# Key Stage 5

We currently offer AQA A-level courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and also Level 3 BTEC Applied Science. Each option is taught in six fifty minute periods a week.

There are many field trips and visits throughout the year, which support and enrich the students’ experience of sixth form.