

**Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School**

**Biology Departmental information**

The Physics, Biology and Chemistry Departments are staffed by a strong team of specialists and results in external examinations are consistently very good. There is a sound working relationship between science staff which is based on mutual respect and good humour. The Science Faculty is currently led by the Head of Biology, Kate Byrne. Andrew Wilkinson is Head of Physics and Heather Bowden is Head of Chemistry. There are six members of staff in Biology, including the head of department.

The departments have well-equipped laboratories, with fixed digital projectors, and enjoy excellent support from the Science Faculty Manager, Sandra Harris. She has responsibility for the laboratories, ordering and maintenance of equipment, and is in charge of two laboratory technicians.

At KS3, we teach science over Year 7 and Year 8 and all science teachers share in the teaching of science (three hours per week), based on the National Curriculum. In Year 9 we begin teaching the GCSE course, following the AQA specification for all three GCSE sciences. At KS4, the year groups are divided into seven sets, with a total of 5 hours of teaching in each subject per fortnight in Year 10 and 4 hours per fortnight in year 11. GCSE Biology results are particularly good with a 100% grade 9-4 pass rate in August 2018. 58% of students achieved a grade 7 or better, and 36% of students achieved a grade 8 or 9.

A-level Biology is one of the most highly subscribed choices in our Sixth Form, with 165 students currently following the AQA Biology course. Results are typically very good, with around 40% of students achieving an A\* or A grade in recent years. Currently there are four Year 12 classes and four Year 13 classes studying AQA Biology. At present, each A-level class has two teachers who share 9 hours teaching per fortnight. Each year we run a field trip to Formby sand dunes and students attend GCSE and A-level Biology Live to hear from scientists working at the cutting edge of developments in Biology.