



Test Valley School Science Department

The Science Department at Test Valley School has high expectations of pupils at all levels and aims to motivate pupils to enjoy Science. Pupils are encouraged to believe they can succeed and meet their targets. Pupils have opportunities to develop their own ideas and independence (this philosophy has resulted in improving results over the last 4 years) where 75% of pupils gained at least one Science GCSE at C+ grade. Some of our pupils go on to study Science A levels. We are looking for an excellent practitioner to continue to promote this success in Science.

The Department is enthusiastic and keen to try out new things often being at the forefront of whole school Teaching and Learning developments. Training opportunities are many and varied.

There are 5 teachers in the department.

Each member of the department has their own laboratory. All are attractively furnished, well-resourced and pleasantly situated. Apparatus, materials and resources are organised by our senior laboratory technician, supported by a part-time technician. Both are very much members of the science team and contribute to the departmental meetings and assist in the delivery of practical lessons. An L.S.A is linked to the department and also acts as Rural Science Technician. There are 3 bookable ICT suites in the school and a set of laptops shared by Maths and Science.

At KS3 pupils are encouraged to operate as scientists. They are required to apply their scientific understanding to different situations and design their own investigations. In Year 7 they are taught in mixed ability classes. They follow a departmentally designed Scheme of Work based on the National Curriculum. Year 8 are placed in ability groupings and follow the second year of our departmental Scheme of Work. In Year 9 the majority of pupils follow a transition course in preparation for GCSE. This focuses on the development of required scientific skills. All of Year 9 start Science GCSE after Christmas. In Year 10 and 11 pupils will complete AQA Combined Science or Separate Sciences. Where possible teachers teach to their specialist subject and work in a rotation with 3 teachers to cover the GCSE syllabus.