THE CHARLES DICKENS SCHOOL – SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Facilities

The department has six well-equipped modern laboratories, a large teaching space able to seat 60 students and four smaller teaching spaces that are all well-furnished. All laboratories and classrooms are equipped with the latest interactive white boards. There is also a large preparation room to serve them. We have various data-logging equipment and software that are used in all Key Stages as well as all of the usual equipment that you would expect of a modern school. There is an office for staff use. There is also a garden which is tended to by one of the technicians.

Key Stage 3

Students follow the National Curriculum in Years 7 and 8. The course is arranged into topics which are Biology, Physics or Chemistry based. There is a heavy emphasis on How Science Works, planning, carrying out of practical's as well as developing independent investigative skills. The programme of study is supported by resources from the Collins scheme in addition to other resource packs. Students are taught in set groups ranging from high ability to low ability and have six sixty minute lessons per fortnight.

Key Stage 4

Science forms a compulsory part of the Key Stage 4 curriculum. In Key Stage 4, the majority of students take AQA Combined science (trilogy in years, 9, 10 and 11) which is organised into separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics. About 25% of students opt for Single Sciences where they study separate AQA GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics from year 9. The GCSE course is delivered over three years with 9 lessons a fortnight for Combined Science in Years 9, 10 and 11 and 14 lessons a fortnight for Single Science classes in years 9, 10 and 11.
In all disciplines a strong emphasis is placed on developing students investigatory skills, with practical lessons planned into the Scheme of Work.

Beyond The Curriculum

The Science department is developing a range of extra-curricular activities such as a gardening club, a science club for Year 7 students and G+T/STEM club for Key Stage 3 students. The department also supports a large number of Key Stage 4 students through supported study sessions.

Staffing

The Science department is staffed by a team of subject specialists. All staff are qualified to teach in both key stages. The current team includes a Lead Teacher for Science, supported by two Deputy Leaders for Science, and a KS3 Assessment Co-ordinator, and four other members of staff. There is also a science lead technician and an HLTA.

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