



THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AT HOLYROOD ACADEMY

The Science Department is a large team, historically consisting of twelve teachers, and is a mix of established and new staff. From September 2017 we will have three Physicists, five Biologists, and four Chemists. Our Achievement Leaders monitor Assessment & Data; Curriculum and Resourcing; Intervention, Engagement and homework.

One member of the team is also a Lead Practitioner, using his skills both within the team and in Academy wide roles.

The Department is housed in five laboratories on the Upper Site and five on the Lower Site. All labs have a data projector and interactive whiteboards.

Four technicians ably support the Department. Two work on either site; Lower and Upper; and between them they have the skills and experience to support A Level teaching in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and are willing and able to provide ideas and support for new practical work; they are also appropriately flexible and supportive of staff and students.

From September 2015 we have introduced and are continuously reviewing a two year Key Stage 3 which is supported by interactive resources, schemes of work and a rigorous assessment timeline; this will be fully embedded by September 2017.

Key Stage 3 classes are usually taught by one teacher who will cover all three Sciences and students are placed in sets at the start of the year, which is then reviewed at the end of the year. At the end of Year 8 higher ability students have the option to study Separate Science with the remainder beginning Combined Science and moving at a slower pace to fully embed their understanding leading into examination years. The department are currently following the AQA scheme of work for 2018 GCSE examinations.

At Key Stage 4 students are taught by one teacher, with provision for Biology, Chemistry and Physics during each half term. Triple Science students are taught by subject specialists and have lessons in Biology, Chemistry and Physics every fortnight. All courses are supported by schemes of work and a variety of resources which are reviewed and updated at regular intervals. The department works collaboratively to ensure these are up to date.

In the Sixth Form we offer A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. We also offer BTEC Applied Science to Level 3.

The Science Department work well together as a team and they are continually developing to ensure high standards are maintained. Current areas being developed include the development of marking and feedback under new Ofsted guidance; developing revision and exam techniques; supporting Required Practical units to maximise student attainment at KS4, and the use of online resources including Show My Homework, Kerboodle and Google Classrooms.

The Holyrood Science team is committed, positive and forward-thinking, with a willingness and adaptability that is very exciting for the implementation of all new Curriculums.

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