



Upton Court Grammar School is a highly successful school which offers a quality education as attested to by our recent OFSTED inspection which found us to be outstanding in all categories. As a grammar school, it is our aim to provide opportunities for pupils of all abilities to achieve to their maximum.

Our school is successful because it has a team of well-qualified and committed people, both teachers and support staff, who are prepared to take an interest in every child. We consider all appointments to our staff to be crucial to the success of the school. The Principal and Governors are committed to the development of both the school and its staff.

The Science Department is a forward looking Department which makes a real difference in the life of our students, moving them towards a better future and believes that in seeking excellence, one must look to the solution not the problem, encouraging the students to work to overcome difficulties in order to succeed. We provide a vibrant, exciting learning experience for all pupils led by subject experts whose first concern is the progress of their students. Our students can expect fascinating lessons where in depth Science is presented in the wider world context. We are looking for a well-qualified and enthusiastic teacher of Biology to contribute to the work of this lively and successful Department.

The Science Department has nine recently refurbished laboratories, The Department is committed to the delivery of broad and balanced Science throughout the school. In Years 7 and 8 the National Curriculum is delivered through 3 hours per week of Science, following the Activate scheme of work. In year 7, the students have one Science teacher covering aspects of all three Science subjects. In year 8, the students have separate Chemistry, Physics and Biology teachers. At GCSE, students study for either separate Sciences or Double Science at higher level on the AQA specification. Most members of the Department teach only their specialist subject at GCSE. This is also the case at A level. The Department has a tradition of high academic success with many of our A Level students going on to higher education in Science & Technology.

The Science Department has developed strong links with universities which bring inspirational lecturers into school and with local businesses whose involvement enhances the educational experience. We encourage student involvement both curricular and extra-curricular and run exciting activities and educational visits to enhance and extend students.

The Science Department is well supported by three subject specialist technicians.

Biology at AS and A2

The Edexcel A (2015 curriculum) course is taught at A level with excellent results. The course is based around practical application and relevance to everyday life. The Biology department organises activities including visits to Whipsnade Zoo and Amersham Field Studies Centre. Core practicals are an essential feature of A level Biology, since they contribute to the Science Practical Endorsement award. Students are motivated by the enthusiastic and expert delivery of the curriculum by the Biology team and the opportunities offered them to join in with the wider life of the Department.



Biology at KS3 and KS4

At KS3, Biology is first taught as a separate Science in year 8. They follow the Activate scheme which covers a broad and balanced Science course covering the objectives of the National Curriculum. Teachers are expected to be able to deliver all three sciences at KS3, and particularly in year 7.

At KS4, we currently follow the AQA Biology specification (8461). We mostly teach in our own specialism but may also teach one other Science at GCSE and we would expect the successful candidate to be able to offer at least two Science subjects at GCSE. Most of our students take Biology as a separate science, while some students will take the Combined Science Trilogy option in Year 11. Required practicals are an important feature of GCSE Biology. Schemes of work and Unit Plans for GCSE have been written in-house and are regularly updated.