

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AT Upper Wharfedale school

This is an excellent opportunity for the successful candidates to join a forward-thinking and supportive Department. Currently, our high performing team comprises of two well qualified, dedicated, innovative and adaptable science teachers and a highly skilled technician.

Science is taught in two laboratories with their own set of basic laboratory equipment. There is a teaching classroom also used by science. The Department also comprises of a well-equipped prep room. The Department is well resourced and we are constantly updating and improving resources within the department.

Students have access to a varied diet of learning experiences. Schemes of work are in place for all Year groups and are constantly being upgraded.

At Key Stage 3, we use a scheme of work written in house to meet all of the requirements of the new national curriculum. The Key Stage 3 curriculum is engaging, exploratory and seamlessly segues into the GCSE course. Classes in Year 7, year 8 and Year 9 have six periods of science over the two weeks of the timetable.

Key Stage 4 starts in the second term of Year 9. We are currently teaching Edexcel Combined science and Separate sciences.

The majority of our students will be completing the Combined Science route, around 60%, with one class in each Year group completing the Triple Science qualifications. The Scheme of Work at Key Stage 4 is adapted from Pearson's Active Teach. For each unit, subject specialists have modified the resources to enhance the pedagogy by adding rigor and regular assessments, in addition to effectively scaffolding to ensure our students can achieve the best grades possible. Our outcomes are consistently above national averages for all Key Stage 4 courses

Classes at Key Stage 4 have six periods of Science in Year 9 per fortnight; split between Biology, Chemistry and Physics specialists. In Years 10 and 11, students have either 8 periods per fortnight if taking Combined Science or 13 per fortnight if taking Triple Award.

Science at Upper Wharfedale is in a faculty with Geography and we work closely to enhance links both in the classroom and with external providers such as the Rivers trust, National trust and a residential trip to Iceland. The department also works closely with ITT training providers such as Northern Lights, taking student teachers to help the department stay in touch with the current teaching styles. The department is actively involved in local network groups to share ideas and enhance teaching.

The Science Department at Upper Wharfedale is highly successful and ambitious. Staff at all levels work cohesively together, sharing ideas and resources with the common aim of continuing to improve teaching and learning, which is at the heart of all that we do.

Howard Barton
Director of Learning Science and Geography