



# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr I Gaughan BA

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## Welcome to the Holy Cross Science Department

Dear Colleague

We are looking forward to welcoming an ambitious, enthusiastic and highly skilled practitioner to this high achieving and forward focused department. We have a good track record of developing teachers so that they can progress well in their careers.

We are a department of seven full-time and two part-time teachers, each with their own subject specialisms, who thrive on a collaborative approach to planning and delivery. Our aim is to deliver lessons which are fun, informative and ultimately drive the pupils on to have a thirst for knowledge where they learn, make progress and achieve. At this school pupils WANT to learn Science.

We currently deliver the AQA GCSE suite of qualifications. There are two sets of pupils in Years 10 and 11 who have opted to follow the Separate Sciences route with great successes being achieved (51% A\*/A grade on average across the three disciplines). All of our pupils follow the AQA Trilogy course, with the current cohort of Year 11 pupils being the first to sit this new examination. Previously whilst following OCR Twenty-First Century Science we have performed well with 67% A\*-C grades being achieved in 2016. We are always reviewing the diet we offer to our pupils especially at this exciting time of reform and a candidate with experience of other examination syllabi would always be welcomed.

Pupils are currently taught in sets according to ability. Teachers normally take the same group in Years 10 and 11 in order to ensure continuity but have different sets in lower school to give the pupils experiences of different teaching styles. There are many well-established departmental policies in place.

Science is a well-resourced department and is taught in eight specialist rooms, each of which has its own electronic whiteboard and access to the school's wireless network. We have a full-time technician who keeps the department running smoothly with experiments being encouraged to enable the pupils to learn with both an academic and kinesthetic approach.

We have excellent relationships with local businesses and colleges through our STEM links and pupils are actively encouraged to enter competitions. Extra-curricular visits are vital to the future progression of pupils and we have been out on a number of excursions including going to London to see Brian Cox, visiting Jim Al-Khalili in Manchester, looked at how waste is reprocessed and are currently involved in a project to design and build hoppers to aid in moving nuclear waste. In addition to this we have taken a large number of pupils to Iceland to see the Aurora Borealis and the geysers. This is a department where we believe in getting the pupils out to see the application of Science in the outside world!

Should you have any questions about us, or would like to look around and meet the team before applying for the post, please do not hesitate to contact me: [mp.power@holycross.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:mp.power@holycross.lancs.sch.uk)

Very best wishes

Mr Matt Power  
Head of Science

*"I have come that they may have life and live it to the full" John 10:10*