**THE STREETLY ACADEMY**

**SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

Science is a highly popular subject at The Streetly Academy. We see ourselves as a dynamic and forward thinking team, eager to make the faculty outstanding. As part of a large department you will play an important role in establishing a positive and caring school ethos, where a culture of success through learning is consistently promoted.

**Staff**

The department consists of 12 full-time science specialists who share the delivery of the subject and developmental responsibilities. We also have two technicians to support our growing needs. Currently, the management structure of the department consists of the Head of Science, Miss Victoria Kelly, supported by a second in science, and heads of subjects, who lead the learning and assessment with teachers working in teams.

Teamwork and shared expectations are essential elements in the department as we believe in improvement through sharing good practice. While consistency is important, individuality is embraced. Members of the department are actively involved in the ongoing process of school improvement through focus groups on literacy, numeracy, ICT and assessment for learning.

**Ofsted**

Our last Ofsted inspection recognised many improvements that have taken place in the Science department. The inspectors saw some very good teaching. We are not complacent and are dedicated to further improvements and reaching the very best in terms of teaching and learning. We were commented upon within the report as our assessment structure is designed especially to help students to identify areas to improve and this is one of the reasons for our success.

**Resources**

The Science department is housed within 12 purpose-built laboratories, many of which have been refurbished. Each block of labs has access to a prep-lab and a technician. The Science department has projectors in every classroom. There are eight computer rooms which are a resource for the whole school – access is available via timetabled and negotiated arrangements, however, all our students in Years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 have a Chromebook and we are developing the use of sharing resources in this paperless fashion. Each member of staff is provided with a wireless chromebook.

**Key Stage 3**

Science is taught to students for 6 x 1 hour periods over a two week timetable.

Units of work continually evolve to ensure the delivery of the National Curriculum at Key Stage 3 and are currently based on schemes of work that we are developing and tailoring to our specific needs. The units are not intended to be totally prescriptive nor to constitute all the learning experience of Years 7 to 8, but rather to provide a secure basis from which staff will develop differentiated units matched to the needs of their teaching group. Staff are expected to use BLOOMs taxonomy as a way of showing progression and stretch and challenge in lessons. Peer and self-assessed activities are used to judge performance and teachers are expected to formally assess students approximately every fortnight.

**Key Stage 4**

In Years 9, 10 and 11 students are taught for an average of 9 x 1 hour periods over a two week timetable. All students follow the OCR Gateway Scheme. There is an opportunity for students to achieve a triple award in Science provided they can prove their continual success. Other students can achieve two GCSEs in Combined Science. Students are grouped according to a policy of setting to target grades and progress at Key Stage 3. Students in Key Stage 4 are also supported through the use of ICT.

**Key Stage 5**

Four courses are currently offered by the Science department at AS and A2 level. Biology, Chemistry and Physics are all popular, well subscribed courses. We also offer a Level 3 Applied Science course which is a BTEC qualification that allows students to achieve through a coursework portfolio as their evidence. This covers medical science.

One of our key areas for development has been Key Stage 5 and we are continually looking at how we teach, how we assess, how students prepare for learning and how we prepare students for external examinations. We are currently achieving very high grades with our students in this area and plan to continue.

**Developments**

The Streetly Academy is a thriving and popular school where the professional development of staff is high priority.

As a team we are currently working on improving our Key Stage 4 results and building upon success at Key Stage 3. We are proud of our achievements and passionate about our subject and this is reflected in our students’ attitudes towards the Science department.

We are a hardworking and ambitious department with clear aims: to provide an outstanding quality of education for all students and to be at the forefront of curriculum development.

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