



Camden School for Girls Science Department

Curriculum and departmental information

Science at Camden School for Girls is dynamic and successful. We deliver integrated science courses to all students in Years 7 to 9. Year 10 and 11 take either separate sciences or the double award. Biology, Chemistry and Physics A-Levels are offered in the Sixth Form.

Our GCSE results are exceptional - 53% Grades 9-7 and 98% Grades 9-4 in Combined Science in 2022 and for Triple Science: 93% grades 9-7 in Biology, 85% Grades 9-7 in chemistry and 89% Grades 9-7 in Physics in 2022. At A level, we have strong performance from year to year with the following outcomes for 2022: Chemistry - 71% A*-B, Biology 61% A* - B and Physics 71% A* - B.

At A level all three sciences are amongst or most popular with many of our students continuing in STEM subjects at degree level. In 2022 39% of our student destinations were to STEM courses

Our facilities include 8 laboratories. Each laboratory is well equipped. A team of three science technicians maintain equipment and prepare apparatus for use in lessons. The department has laptop computers and data logging equipment available for use throughout Years 7 to 13. The school has three fully equipped computer rooms and several sets of chromebooks which are available for booking.

Teaching is innovative and exciting, and teachers choose the most appropriate activities and resources for their classes and are encouraged to contribute ideas to our shared resource area. All students are provided with appropriate revision guides, and use other textbooks such as Exploring Science for Key Stage 3 and Oxford/ Collins AQA GCSE books during lessons.

We aim to give all students a wide range of opportunities to further their interests in science and seek to achieve this through a variety of activities including extension activities at Highgate School and demonstrations by outside visitors. Trips complement classroom studies. Students at Key Stage 4 and 5 are encouraged to attend STEM activities such as masterclasses and lectures. We have excellent links with institutions such as The Crick and the institute of Physics.

Students in **Years 7 to 9** have five 40 minute lessons per week, usually arranged as 2 + 2 + 1. We teach the KS3 curriculum over 2 years and a GCSE bridging course in Year 9. Year 7 are taught in mixed ability tutor groups of 30 students and Years 8 and 9 in ability bands. Year 8 are taught in five sets and Year 9 are taught in three higher ability groups and two foundation groups.

In **Year 10 and 11** students study one of two AQA linear science programmes. Either three GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics or GCSE Combined Science. The Combined Science groups are taught in two ability bands. The specifications taught are from the AQA GCSE Sciences suite.

Biology, Chemistry and Physics A Level are allocated 7 40 minute lessons per week in a 2 + 2 + 3 formation, and this is usually split between two teachers. Students in A Level classes come from Camden and many other schools and are accepted if they fulfil the general admission requirements for A Level study at Camden School for Girls and the specific requirements for individual A Level Science subjects. Our Science A Level classes are popular and oversubscribed. We currently have 6 Biology, 6 Chemistry and 4 Physics classes in Year 12 and 13. The specifications taught are Edexcel A-level Biology, AQA A-level Chemistry and AQA A-level Physics.