



Information about our Science Department

You would be joining a supportive, innovative team who bring a wealth of experience to the role, both from their experience as educators and through work outside of education. As a department we are committed to ensuring the experiences of our students are engaging, inspiring and challenging. We work hard to provide students with the opportunity to study a stimulating, challenging curriculum and to encourage them to continue their studies post-16. For example, we are currently exploring ways of working with Schools across the trust to provide post 16 experiences in the sciences.

Accommodation

The Science department is situated within the main school building. We have five fully equipped teaching labs situated close to each other and two prep rooms on the same corridor. Each Science teacher has their own teaching base in which most of their lessons will be timetabled. We are supported by two term-time technicians. Labs are spacious and well maintained and all labs have a large interactive whiteboard. One lab has a fume cupboard. We have access to three full-sized ICT suites as well as use of netbooks for occasions when in class access to IT is more appropriate.

Staff

The Learning Area comprises:

- Mr David Barker – Leader of Learning Science & PE
- Mr Nick Radcliffe - Second in Science
- Miss Lesley Duran - Teacher of Science
- Mrs Suzanne Davey-Hicks – Teacher of Science (part time)
- Dr Jenny Emerson - Teacher of Science (part-time)
- Miss Holly Hammond – Senior Science Technician
- Mrs Mandie Winbow – Science Technician

Timetable

The school operates on a two-week timetable. KS3 classes have Science 6 times each cycle, usually split between two teachers. The KS3 curriculum is based on the Activate scheme. KS4 students have Science 10 times per cycle, split between two teachers. Most students study AQA Combined Science (Trilogy). Some lower ability students study AQA Entry Level Certificate Science and are double-entered for ELC and GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy). Triple Award Science is offered as an option and attracts up to a quarter of the cohort each year. This is taught over 15 lessons each cycle and split between three teachers. We also offer Early Years Childcare as an option in KS4.

Support

In addition to the support mechanisms in place across the school, the Learning Area provides a way of sharing best practice and for supporting with classroom management. The close proximity of the rooms also ensures that colleagues are in regular contact with one another and available for discussion on an informal basis. We have approximately 1 calendared learning area meeting a month to share best practice and work collaboratively on developing the department and our curriculum. We also meet briefly once per fortnight for a morning subject briefing. We firmly believe in working as a team and will support each other however and whenever possible. The Trust and School encourage and support participation in CPD that is specific to each teacher's needs to enable effective career progression and there is a robust system in place, including regular teaching and learning briefings to ensure staff are supported in developing their practice.

Extra-Curricular

The Science department is committed to ensuring students' love of science reaches beyond the classroom. We aim to run several trips each year, for example to the Cheltenham Science Festival. We also run a well-attended lunchtime and after-school Science club and we are currently launching Crest awards.