**SCIENCE TECHNICIAN TEAM**

Science at The Sixth Form College is delivered in two suites of dedicated laboratories with two additional technical preparation areas and storage. These areas are sited in Lower Hampton (Biology and Physics) and a brand new Chemistry building. Dedicated to level 3 teaching, the departments are well resourced with relevant equipment to serve teaching at this level. BTEC Applied Science is delivered in the accommodation appropriate to the unit being delivered.

The present technician team consists of 6 Science Technicians.

The area comprises:

A level Biology – AQA

A level Chemistry - AQA

A level Physics - AQA

BTEC Applied Science (Extended Diploma and Extended Certificate) – Edexcel Pearson

Science subjects are extremely popular at Solihull Sixth Form College and student numbers are strong. We encourage learners to stretch and challenge themselves through the enrichments we offer. Currently we run a STEM enrichment, with an engineering focus and a practical Science enrichment. We have several links with local universities: sending learners to “masterclasses” and inviting in speakers.

The Senior Science Technician acts as Line Manager to all the Technicians and manages the delivery of technical support to Biology. The Senior Science technician is supported by the Assistant Science Technician who is based in the Chemistry department.

1. Chemistry: The Assistant Senior Science Technician manages the delivery of technical support to Chemistry. There is also a part-time science technician based in Chemistry.
2. Physics and Applied Science: This work is managed by the Senior Physics and Applied Science technician.

Although sited in two separate buildings, the technicians work as a close team and they each work primarily in one department, they do help each other in times of pressure. All of the work carried out by the technicians support the delivery of level 3 courses in both A level and BTEC. The existing team are knowledgeable and experienced and understand the demands of the courses at this level. Technicians will support learners in practical lessons to enable them to develop good techniques, particularly in the most challenging practical activities.

The Chemistry team has 6 teachers, some part time. They deliver the AQA A Level Chemistry course to 180 year 12 students and 180 year 13 students.

The Natural Sciences Department has 11 teaching staff, 8 for Biology and 3 teachers of Physics. There are approximately 186 Biology students in the present year 13 and 189 in year 12 following the AQA A level Biology specification. There are 68 Physics students in the present year 13 and 77 in year 12. All these students follow the AQA Physics specification.

Both Science Departments are involved in the delivery of the BTEC Applied Science course which has 48 students studying the Extended Certificate (single) and 203 Extended Diploma (triple) students.