



BISHOP VESEY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Information about the Biology Department

Philosophy

Bishop Vesey's Grammar School is a six form entry boys' grammar school converter academy situated in a pleasant environment of North East Birmingham, close to Sutton Park. Boys are selected for admission to the school on the basis of grammar school tests adopted by the Grammar Schools of Birmingham Consortium. The school has a large co-educational sixth form of 428 students.

We seek an inspirational and qualified teacher with excellent communication skills to join our ambitious and forward-looking school. An ability to teach KS3 Biology and Biology to GCSE and A level would be preferable. Candidates for teaching posts at the school are expected to show a willingness to participate in the extra-curricular activities we offer students.

Teaching and Learning

Biology is a dynamic department which places innovation in teaching and learning at the core of its practice. It has a very strong reputation both within and outside of the school, which is supported by excellent records of exam success. It aims for continuous improvement and encourages staff to develop and share resources.

Key Stage 3

Year 7 and Year 8 students are taught separate sciences by subject specialists, with class sizes at an average of 32 students.

Key Stage 4

From Year 9 all students continue to study the three separate sciences at GCSE level by subject specialists with class sizes at an average of 27 students. The AQA specification is followed.

Key Stage 5

We currently follow the AQA course in Biology at A Level, with all examinations taking place at the end of the year in both Years 12 and 13.

Exam results

In 2020, 78% of our entry achieved an A* - B grade at A level, with 73% achieving grades 9-7 at GCSE.

Other information

The main school science block houses eleven well-equipped laboratories, four of which are allocated to Biology. There is also a greenhouse. We make much use of IT. All rooms are fitted with projectors and interactive whiteboards. We have a wide range of learning software, data logging equipment and a class set of laptop computers for use in the Biology Department. We are also supported by a Science Technician and an Assistant Science Technician. All of this means we can be innovative, up-to-date and practical in our teaching.

There are currently 4.6 FTE members of staff, including the Head of Department and from September 2020, a Second in Biology. The team usually have teaching groups in all years.

We consider extra-curricular support to be vital to the success of our students, and run a weekly Biology Clinic, participate in external Biology events, and organise workshop events for A' level students.

We have many students applying to study Medicine and Veterinary Science at university and all department members participate in a mentoring system for these students.

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