

**LAWRENCE SHERIFF SCHOOL**

**A Teaching School Hub**

**THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT AT LSS**

The Biology Department is staffed by a team of four graduate Biologists as well as an experienced graduate technician. The Science faculty is then made up of 7 other graduate Chemistry and Physics teachers as well as two other specialist technicians.

All Science teachers teach Combined Science via our bespoke scheme of learning in Years 7 and 8. In Years 9, 10 and 11 specialist teachers deliver the Edexcel triple science scheme to all students leading to three separate GCSE science awards. At A level, the Biology department follow the OCR Biology A level course. The school has a strong tradition of Biology in the mixed gender sixth form with four groups being taught in year 13 and three in Year 12. A substantial number of students join us from other schools in the area in order to take Biology at A level. The majority of our A level Biologists go on to apply for undergraduate courses such as Medicine, Biomedical Science, Physiotherapy, Veterinary Science and Natural Science. As such, the department is very engaged in the support of students as they progress through the UCAS application progress.

The Biology department consistently achieves good results at GCSE and A level and has a strong reputation for achieving pleasing, positive value added scores. As a department, our ethos is to inspire curiosity within our students and to make the learning environment a positive climate where students feel safe to ask questions and know it is ok to make mistakes. The students recognise this and the department take an active role in supporting the pastoral well-being of the students as well as their academic progress.

Science teaching takes place in the appropriate specialist laboratories in our brand new, purpose built Science building. All nine laboratories are well equipped with modern interactive screens and internet access as well as climate control and plenty of storage.

The Science Faculty is a close knit, friendly and supportive team. Subject specialism is our strength, although teachers are expected to teach all three sciences in Years 7 and 8.

In a November 2007 Ofsted inspection, the school was identified as ‘an outstandingly successful school’ having been assessed as outstanding in all 42 Ofsted categories.

As a department we aim to build on our past successes and innovate for the future. This is a department which has no intention of resting on its laurels. The last two years have provided many new challenges but I am confident that the Science Team has the ability and the enthusiasm to meet anything we come up against.

Mrs Bronia Costello (Head of Biology)

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