



KING EDWARD VI HANDSWORTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The Chemistry Department

Staffing

Science is one of the largest departments in the school and takes a key role in implementing new learning and teaching strategies, looking at novel ways to integrate ICT into the classroom. We run several science based clubs and use links with Mathematics and Technology to increase the girls' awareness of STEM related careers.

The Science Department at King Edward VI Handsworth is extremely well equipped in terms of practical equipment, lab space and experience of the existing staff. We have a history of successfully mentoring newly qualified teachers and those embarking on ITT.

The Science Department completed an extensive refurbishment program in March 2015. This included 5 new full size laboratories, a new Biology preparation room and a new spacious staff workroom as well as new pupil toilets and carpets in the communal hall areas. The whole department now consists of 15 well equipped laboratories and a demonstration classroom. These are all maintained by our experienced team of 3 technicians. Each lab has an interactive white board. The Chemistry department also has visualisers in several classrooms.

At present the Science department has the following members of staff:-

Biology Department

Dr Andrew Bailey (HOD Biology)
Mrs Trudy Kirby
Miss Emma Lock
Mrs Harbinder Flora
Mrs Mahmooda Begum (part time)
Mr Mohsin Ghaffoor (Biology Technician)

Chemistry Department

Mr Jonathan Whitehead (HOD Chemistry)
Mrs Gurvinder Bajaj (maternity leave)
Dr Ross Perrins
Mrs Nageena Hussain
Miss Natalie Samuels
Mrs Shumaila Mahmood
Mr Dilbagh Raja (Chemistry Technician)

Physics Department

Mr Mohammad Nawaz (HOD Physics)
Mr Charles Trotter (Assistant Head)
Mr Andrew North
Mr Alan Lock (Physics Technician)

The ethos of the Chemistry Department

The aim of the Chemistry Department is to develop each girl's full potential and strive for academic excellence. Our curriculum aims to create interest and enthusiasm in Chemistry. We offer stimulating courses which are based largely on practical work using a wide range of resources. We hope to develop confident citizens in a technological world, who are able to take or develop an informed interest in chemistry.

Year 9

Year 9 science groups are taught by 3 subject specialist teachers, currently 2 lessons per fortnight. The students start their GCSE studies with the Atomic Structure and Periodic Table topic of the new AQA Chemistry GCSE, incorporating the new Required Practicals and skills which fit in with this. The students have frequent end of topic tests in order to track their progress throughout the course.

KS4

Year 10 and 11

Students follow the AQA Chemistry specification. All students follow the triple award route. Students currently have 4 hours per fortnight of each science. There are six mixed ability sets taught by subject specialists. Continual assessment is used to monitor progress and target intervention.

KS5

Year 12 and 13

Chemistry is a very popular subject at A-Level. Usually the Department have around 100-110 students per year group studying A Level Chemistry across two years. The Department follows the AQA specification. The students are currently taught nine hours per fortnight with a double lesson that is usually used for completing practical work.

Further Information

To find out further information about the Chemistry Department please log on to our website at www.kingedwardvi.bham.sch.uk and follow the following links Subjects > Science > Chemistry. Information on events within the department can also be found on our website in the Gallery.

Mr Jonathan Whitehead
Head of Chemistry
March 2022