



Information about the Chemistry Department

Philosophy

Bishop Vesey's Grammar School is an expanding 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 1291 students with 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 Chemistry from GCSE through to 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. We warmly welcome applications from NQT's or experienced teachers.

Teaching and Learning

Chemistry 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.

Key Stage 3 Science

At Key Stage 3, Year 7 pupils are taught in groups of approximately 32 students, in Year 8 and 9, students are in groups of approximately 26 students. All students follow the AQA specifications and are taught by subject specialists from Y7 through to A level.

Chemistry Key Stage 4/5 and exam results

Students follow the AQA specification 8642 with the expectation that students sit the higher paper. In 2020 72% of our entry achieved grades 9-7 at GCSE level.

In the Sixth Form, Chemistry is very popular. We are joined by students from other schools. Around 150 students take Chemistry at A level, including 73 in Lower Sixth on a linear A-level course. We operate five teaching sets in Upper Sixth with four groups in Lower Sixth. The AQA specification 7404 and 7405 is followed. In 2020 70% of our entry achieved a grade A*/B at A level.

Other information

We make much use of IT; most rooms are fitted with projectors and interactive whiteboards and we have a wide range of learning software. The departments strive to make IT a natural and inspiring tool for teaching science issues relevant to the twenty-first century.

There are currently five Chemistry teachers, including the Head of Department who usually have teaching groups in all years. There is excellent support from a full time, well-qualified technician; this means that we can be innovative, up-to-date and practical in our teaching.

The department is enthusiastic about the teaching of our subject and our students are able and want to succeed. This is evidenced by recent external examinations in all science subjects.

The Chemistry Department believe strongly in providing a curriculum enriched with extra-curricular opportunities. We have a thriving Peer Mentoring scheme that supports A-level students to support our GCSE Chemistry students. We have strong links with Birmingham University. Each year we enter A-level students for the L63C and Chemistry Olympiad competitions. We have enjoyed recent success with our first students achieving gold awards in the last couple of years.

We are looking for a willingness to support, coach and mentor Sixth Form students interested in pursuing careers in Medicine, Engineering, Veterinary and any Science related degree, particularly Chemistry.

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