

# Weatherhead High School Science Department



The Science Department is staffed by a hardworking and committed team of 19 teachers. The department has excellent facilities and includes 2 preparation rooms which are staffed by 3 lab technicians. Students enjoy learning Science and a significant number of students continue to study at Advanced Level. Many students go on to study Science and STEM courses at university (including Medicine, Pharmacy, Theoretical Physics, Engineering, Pharmacology and Midwifery).

The Department is constantly striving to raise attainment through curriculum development, focusing on teaching and learning strategies, sharing good practice and continued evaluation of all aspects of the departmental work. Our aim is for all students to realise their true potential in Science through the teaching of engaging lessons and an exciting extensive extracurricular provision.

At Key Stage 3, students follow a curriculum that focuses on depth of understanding and problem solving. As students move into Key Stage 4, they develop their skills further and the majority of students study the AQA Trilogy specification for GCSE. Some students opt to take separate sciences and study GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics. Our results are broadly in line with national standards, although we are very ambitious for our students.

We have a high number of students taking A Level Science subjects and we follow the AQA specification. BTEC Applied Science is also a popular subject for our post-16 students and, for many of our students, this is a pathway into nursing.

Outside of lessons our students enjoy enriching their knowledge through a variety of clubs. Students are given the opportunity to complete their CREST award through attendance at Science club. This award invites students to plan and carry out their own investigation and share their findings with staff and their peers. Gardening club is also a popular activity for many students. Not only does this teach students valuable skills but it also encourages them to think about outdoor spaces and the sustainability of food and materials. Students in Year 9 and 10 are given the opportunity to attend the STEM club and attend many trips and competitions outside of school including the Unilever competition and the STEM showcase. Sixth form students are also encouraged to get involved in STEM work experience and every year we have a number of students who complete Nuffield research placements and laboratory experiences through Unilever.

The facilities in school are exceptional and we benefit from an excellent range of resources to support and enrich teaching and learning. The Science Department is housed in a dedicated area with 13 teaching labs and a staff work space. Each classroom has an Interactive Whiteboard, a visualiser and full access to the internet and a variety of software / online packages.

For more information on the department and curriculum please visit our webpage:  
<https://weatherheadhigh.co.uk/project/science/>