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Faculty Information: Science

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The Science Faculty at SGS is a large and enthusiastic team of 27 teachers and 7 laboratory technicians. We are passionate about our subjects, with expertise in all areas and excellent teaching, learning and results at all key stages. We put student learning at the heart of all our decision making processes and operate a continual system of staff development with an ethos of continual improvement informed by both learning research and reflection on our own practice. This results in many of our students developing a passion for science, being involved in co-curricular opportunities and taking Sciences further to college, university and as careers. We are looking for someone to join our team who upholds this ethos.

Science is taught to all pupils Year 7 to 11 and science courses are very popular options post 16. Up to Year 11 all courses are AQA Science with a balanced content covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics. At Key Stage 3 (Y7-8), our students follow a 2 year accelerated programme of study for the KS3 framework. A large proportion of students at KS4 follow AQA GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy). Some students choose to follow a GCSE Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs) programme which is an option an SGS. We offer Health and Social care and GCSE Psychology as an option.

In Years 7 and 8, based in the School's Towers and Rock Road sites, pupils are taught in mixed ability groupings. In Year 9 and the first half of year 10 students are taught largely in mixed ability groupings with 15 classes in total in each year group (split across two bands). For the end of Year 10 and Year 11 students are set depending on likely tier of entry.

Within the 50-period fortnightly timetable, pupils in Year 7 and 8 have five periods of Science per fortnight of one hour duration each. In KS4 students have nine Science lessons per fortnight for combined science and fourteen for separate science. In Sixth Form nine lessons per subject per fortnight.

In the Sixth Form we currently offer A Levels in: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science, Psychology and BTEC level 3 courses in Forensic Science and Health and Social Care. All A-Levels are taught by subject specialists and teaching of any one group is usually by two teachers sharing the load. Results for Science at Key Stage 3, GCSE and A level have been very good over many years.

We are well resourced with scientific equipment as well as interactive whiteboards, and all teachers are issued with an iPad. Teachers are trained in aspects of their ICT use that help with student learning. Students at KS3 and KS4 also have iPads and most 6th formers bring their own devices. We have two Science specific staff rooms where we foster an excellent atmosphere amongst all members of the team. We run several social events each year to add to the already positive ethos in the team.

We also work with our community schools in the area and with BET schools to share good practice and innovative ideas and run outreach projects ongoing that involve enrichment activities for Year 6 students as well as co-curricular clubs at KS3 and 4 and other opportunities at A-level. New members of staff are encouraged to get involved in these activities and any new projects as they begin.

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