



## THE CHARLES DICKENS SCHOOL – SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

### Facilities

The department has six well-equipped modern laboratories, a large teaching space able to seat 60 students and two smaller teaching spaces that are all well-furnished. All laboratories and classrooms are equipped with the latest interactive white boards. There is also a large preparation room to serve them. We have various data-logging equipment and software that are used in all Key Stages as well as all of the usual equipment that you would expect of a modern school. There is an office for staff use.

### Key Stage 3

Students follow the National Curriculum in Years 7 and 8. The course is arranged into topics which are Biology, Physics or Chemistry based. There is a heavy emphasis on key scientific knowledge, planning, carrying out of practical's as well as developing independent investigative skills. Students are taught in set groups ranging from high ability to low ability and have eight sixty minute lessons per fortnight.

### Key Stage 4

Science forms a compulsory part of the Key Stage 4 curriculum. In Key Stage 4, all students take AQA Combined science (trilogy in years, 9, 10 and 11) which is organised into separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics, all delivered by one Science teacher. The GCSE course is delivered over three years with eight lessons a fortnight in Years 9, 10 and 11.

In all disciplines a strong emphasis is placed on building the student's core scientific knowledge and regular retrieval practice to ensure all students become lifelong learners of Science. This is to not only enable them to excel in the science GCSEs but also transfer their knowledge and understanding to make sense of the science in the world outside of school.

### Beyond The Curriculum

The Science department is developing a range of extra-curricular activities such as an astronomy club and a STEM club for Key Stage 3 students. The department also supports a large number of Key Stage 4 students through supported study sessions.

### Staffing

The Science department is staffed by a team of subject specialists. All staff are qualified to teach in both key stages. The current team includes a Director of Science, supported by two Second in Charges, and seven other members of staff. There is also a science lead technician.