

The Science Team at Chenderit School

The team is high performing, supportive and very open to innovation and development, we are always striving to ensure that our teaching engages our students and enables them to reach their full science potential. The department is well equipped with each teaching room having a projector and visualiser, some with fume cupboards and all with gas and water supply. All members of staff are supplied with a laptop. The department supports opportunities for students to explore practical science with a very well stocked prep room, supported by two fulltime Science Technicians. In addition to our work with the curriculum we also support STEM clubs and extracurricular activities. The department has the use of a shared workroom/kitchen that we use for planning, storing shared resources and at break and lunch as a communal space.

The Science Department has a well organised digital shared drive that contains shared resources including schemes of work for KS3, KS4 and post 16 learning, along with assessments, PowerPoints and supporting worksheets and other documents.

At KS3 we use the Activate scheme of learning, which enables us to covers the full range of the National Curriculum as well as adding depth and breadth to the content. We follow the Edexcel GCSE specifications for combined and individual sciences at KS4. Students start their GCSE science courses after October half-term in year 9. This has allowed us to complete the KS3 course fully and prepare students well for the next phase of their science learning. The course is completed by March of year 11, leaving plenty of time to revise the key concepts and content in preparation for the summer GCSE exams.

There is good uptake of A-Level science courses and students are fully supported within their studies. OCR-A is followed for A-Level Chemistry and Physics and Edexcel Biology-B is followed for A-Level Biology. Students are taught in tutor groups in years 7 and 8, and then from year 9 onwards are put into groups appropriate to their attainment targets and choices of combined or separate science. The Science Department is a cohesive team which works collaboratively to improve resources leading to better teaching and learning. Our focus is to work to continually to improve our teaching (and the outcomes for students) through the implementation and mastery of a metacognitive approach. Giving learners plenty of opportunities to master key contents and ideas through repeated practice and reflection, leading to more confident, resilient and independent learners.