



Science Department

The Post

We wish to appoint a well-qualified and enthusiastic Teacher of Science who can teach science across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Science is a popular subject and high achieving department and we are looking to appoint someone who will share their passion and enthusiasm for science with our young people. We will be able to shape the teaching requirements of the successful applicant around their areas of specialism and experience to date. This is an exciting opportunity for an ECT or experienced teacher to join an outstanding school and outstanding science department.

The Department

The Science department currently includes 19 teachers plus 4 technicians. The Director of STEM has strategic leadership of science and maths, where, within science, the leadership is devolved into the roles of:

Heads of Physics, Chemistry and Biology:	Lead their specialism at KS5 and Triple Award
Teacher in charge of Applied Science:	Leads Applied Science at KS5
Teacher in charge of Combined Science:	Leads Combined Science at KS4
Operational Leader:	Operational management of the department & leader of provision and progress at KS3
Pedagogy Lead:	Leads pedagogy developments within Science

Each of the science subjects is currently taught by teachers who are specialists in their own subject. Of the 19 teachers in the department, 5 are specialists in Physics, 6 in Chemistry and 8 in Biology.

In addition, the vibrant department gives all teachers the opportunity and support to take a lead in areas of interest contributing to their own professional development.

The department is based in its own purpose-designed building, opened in 1994, which includes 10 modern laboratories, 2 large preparation areas and a staff work room. The department also has access to two more laboratories which are situated in the main school building. All laboratories have a teacher PC linked either to a digital projector or a Prowise interactive board.

Science is a highly successful department that is characterised by strong teamwork and excellent relationships. Everyone contributes to the work of the department by developing resources and materials that make up our schemes of work. There is a supportive, collegiate atmosphere and a wealth of ideas and experience that are shared, both formally and informally, with each other.

As part of our Teaching School Alliance and the establishment of our SCITT, Manchester Nexus, which operates out of Blue Coat School, the department also supports the development of aspiring science teachers through the ITE programme.

Curriculum

In Key Stage 3 pupils follow the Exploring Science scheme of work which provides a diverse curriculum with close links to everyday science. We believe strongly that experimental skills are the bedrock of effective science teaching, and pupils have many opportunities to develop their skills in science investigations.

At Key Stage 4 we teach both Combined and Triple Science following the AQA specification. Students are advised about which course is best for them based on their achievement at KS3. On average 2 sets (approximately 60 students) take Triple award each year.

Teachers teach in their chosen specialism at KS4 both for Triple and Combined Science.

Blue Coat has an oversubscribed 6th Form of over 400 students. Science is our most popular subject at A Level and all our A Level courses are thriving, with multiple groups in every discipline. Biology and Chemistry each have 4 teaching groups in Year 12 and Year 13, and Physics and Applied Science have 2 teaching groups in Year 12 and 13. We also run a separate AS in Physics, as part of our Futures pathway.

Outcomes

Science is a specialism at The Blue Coat School. A culture of investigation, enquiry, curiosity, the proper use of evidence and conceptual thinking is one we are seeking to develop and embed across the school.

Key Stage 4	9 to 7			9 to 5			9 to 4		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Chemistry	83%	60%	59%	100%	100%	96%	100%	100%	100%
Physics	78%	50%	67%	100%	100%	98%	100%	100%	100%
Science	24%	19%	15%	66%	62%	56%	85%	81%	79%

Key Stage 5	A*-A			A*-B			A*-E		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Chemistry	30%	21%	24%	42%	48%	47%	96%	97%	99%
Physics	31%	16%	32%	44%	28%	47%	97%	100%	100%