

Arden Science Department Information

Arden is situated in pleasant surroundings in Knowle, Solihull. It is an oversubscribed 11-18 High Performing Academy. Judged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in our most recent inspections we have over 1600 students on roll, including 260 in the Sixth Form. As a Multi Academy Trust we truly value the success of every child and we place the sharing of excellent education practice at the core of this value. We are committed to improving the quality of education and life in Solihull and its immediate surroundings. The Trust operates from its hub in Knowle, to the south of Solihull.

At Arden we pride ourselves on doing the very best for every pupil, helping them achieve their full educational potential as they develop into happy, well-rounded young adults, of whom we can be very proud. In return for doing our best, we expect every pupil to match up to the high academic and personal standards that we set as a pre-requisite for being part of the Arden family. Arden is a place where a child can really flourish and we do our very best to see them reach their maximum personal and academic potential.

The department currently has thirteen full time and four part-time members of teaching staff supported by three full-time technicians. ICT resources are good. Most of the Science rooms have interactive capabilities in addition to a portable class set of 32 iPads. We are lucky enough to own a greenhouse and have further gardening space adjacent to the block. The Year 7 Science Club is extremely popular and we aim to run as many trips and STEM events where possible across all year groups. We have a dedicated selection of Science ambassadors who also share their passion and enthusiasm for science with others.

Key Stage 3

During Key Stage 3 we deliver a bespoke curriculum to all pupils. Drawing on the recommendations from QCA, it is superbly resourced and tailored perfectly to the needs of teachers and pupils within our context.

To ensure every individual is valued equally, lessons are delivered in a mixed ability setting, allowing the entire cohort the opportunity to thrive and succeed. The majority of classes are taught by one teacher, occasionally two.

Students complete the majority of assessment at the class teacher's discretion informally. In addition three tests per year feed into the whole school assessment and reporting programme. In line with national changes to a linear programme of assessment in later Key Stages, the tests are cumulative and assess all prior learning that has taken place during that academic year.

Key Stage 3 is taught in years 7 and 8 only to give more time over to the demands of new GCSE curriculums. During these important 2 years we also embed maths, practical, and revision skills that are now paramount in Key Stage 4.

Key Stage 4

Outstanding engagement and progress at KS3 is reflected in the huge percentage of pupils opting to take separate sciences at KS4. This option is taken at the end of year 9 so pupils have

experienced the demands of the GCSE course and can make an informed decision. Again classes are designed to cover the full ability range and to ensure outstanding behavior for learning at all times.

Pupils following the AQA GCSE Double Science route (Trilogy) are taught by one teacher to ensure consistency of learning and engagement. In year 10 and 11 the pupils selecting triple science have increased contact time, hence two teachers are available to deliver the course.

Sixth Form

Progress at all levels is well in excess of the national average, including biology, chemistry and physics A-level. The department very rarely fails to achieve a 100% pass rate in all three subjects. The success of the teaching within the science department has been pivotal in the growth of the Sixth Form to over 300 pupils. Students are entered for the AQA examinations in Physics and Chemistry, whereas we follow the OCR course in Biology.

We have an exceptionally talented group of teachers delivering the A-levels at Arden. Within the team there is a great capacity to embrace change and to look at how post-16 pedagogy can be continuously improved. Recently we have opted to maximise pupil outcomes by adopting a flipped-learning approach to lessons, a strategy which is supported by extensive use of e-learning strategies.

The caliber of the individual leaving Arden with exceptional results is dazzling. With enormous pride we watch our students leave to study subjects such as medicine, law, and many other STEM related degree subjects at both Oxbridge and Russell Group universities.

If you can offer us:

- A commitment to high quality teaching and learning and a passion for students' progress
- Well-developed interpersonal and communication skills;
- Energy, creativity, flair and enthusiasm;
- A clear sense of vision and how it can become reality.

We can offer you:

- A school with an excellent record of academic achievement
- A lively, motivated and friendly staff;
- A pleasant and comfortable working environment;
- First class performance management and professional development;
- The opportunity to contribute to whole school developments