



## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

There are 14 specialist teaching staff in the Department and 4 science technicians. The Heads of the Science Department are Mrs Bryant (0.8) and Mrs Sinclair (0.2 and second in department). They are supported by a Head of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. All staff teach largely within their specialisms from GCSE onwards and excellent subject knowledge is a strength of the Department. We are a large, friendly Department with a great range of experience, colleagues are pleased to work collaboratively and regularly share resources and ideas. There is a strong focus on making use of evidence-based strategies to promote effective learning.

There are 13 specialist science laboratories, clustered in one area of our extensive school site. Four labs were built in 2020 and a further three were refurbished in 2022. All labs have a display panel to support interactive teaching. There are two main prep rooms plus some smaller storage rooms, a science staff work room and a greenhouse. Our able technician team support teaching staff with equipment and practical set up across the year groups in all three science subject areas.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is delivered during year 7 and 8, using in-house resources which have been based on the Smart Activate scheme. Students begin studying GCSE content during Year 9 and are taught by separate specialists from this point on. In year 10 and 11 the cohort divides into triple and combined science pathways, with approximately one third of the year group following the triple science route. Grade 9-4 pass rates for Triple Science are 100% and results are also very strong in Combined Science with 77% of students achieving one grade 4 or higher last year. Our students follow the AQA Science courses. Subject teams make available shared teaching and assessment resources, although individual and innovative teaching approaches are also welcomed within the teaching and assessment framework.

Science A-levels are very popular options in the 6th Form. At A-level we offer courses in AQA Biology, Chemistry and Physics as 2-year linear courses. We run usually run two groups in Chemistry and Physics and three groups for Biology. Chemistry is increasingly popular and there is a possibility of a third group next year. We also run the Eduqas level 3 Medical Science course with excellent progress shown by students choosing this option.

There are opportunities for all science students to develop their passion for science further. For example, we run a weekly STEM club for younger students, took visits to Euro Disney, Birmingham University and the Peak District last year and each year encourage high attaining GCSE and A-level students to participate in subject Olympiads and challenge events. Many students continue with further education that includes Science and STEM related courses building on their experiences through Key Stage 3,4 & 5.