

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT 2020

Introduction

The Science Department has been a consistently high performing department within Imberhorne school for more than the last decade. The department comprises a strong and committed team of teachers who plan activities collaboratively. In recent years the percentage of students gaining at least a grade 4/C grade has consistently been above 70%.

Value added scores at A2 and AS level in Biology, Chemistry and Physics as judged by ALPS, have been consistently good in recent years.

Staff and Accommodation

The department is made up of fifteen science teachers, with a blend of experienced teachers, and those nearer the start of their careers. Teachers have high expectations, and work well together to create an atmosphere in which all students can fulfil their potential.

The department is currently organised on a traditional model of separate Key Stage Coordinators, with heads of sciences for the separate A level subjects and BTec Applied Science courses. There are six post holders in addition to the Leader of Learning for Science.

Members of staff teach across the age and ability range. There is also a dedicated BTec Science ICT suite and class sets of laptops at both sites.

Curriculum

Key Stage 3 has mixed ability teaching in years 7 and 8 with broad setting starting in year 9. The National Curriculum requirements are met through a term by term resourced plan of lessons which we have developed and adapted over many years.

Our exam board for the new GCSE specification is AQA. KS4 students follow either the foundation or higher tier pathway. Triple (separate) science is an option for more-able students which involves a commitment to an additional twilight, finishing by 5pm, each week through y10 and y11.

At Key Stage 5 students follow a two-year A Level, with Biology and Physics following the AQA specification with Chemistry delivering Edexcel. The sciences are a popular and very successful choice in the Sixth Form, with students going on to study sciences and related subjects at a full range of universities and other Higher Education institutions.

Extra-curricular

In the sixth form we have an active and long running exchange link with a Swedish sixth form college in Gavle. This is centred on biology. Within the last few years we have entered students for the UK Biology and Physics Olympiad Challenges.

CPD opportunities are extensive for members of the department, with teachers collaborating both with local school groups and attending various courses throughout the year to enhance their professional development. Sharing within the team after a course is facilitated within our department CPD sessions.