

The Science department at FCC

We have ten dedicated laboratories and a large prep room along with a fully stocked ICT room. We currently have 8 fully qualified full time science teachers and 4 part time Science teachers, along with one Assistant Headteacher in the department. We deliver KS3, KS4 and KS5 science across the department and therefore have a significant breadth and depth of knowledge as a science team.

In KS3, students have 7 lessons (50 minutes) over two weeks and we aim to engage them in science early on by having a hands on practical approach that allows us to instil the fundamental ideas of scientific process. We currently follow a mixture of Activate Science and our own in-house resources. We operate a three year KS3 with the top year 9 set being selected for triple science and starting that route in year 9 (giving them three years to complete the course).

At GCSE, students have 18 lessons over two weeks if they study triple science and 12 if they study combined science trilogy. We have two teachers per group for combined science, who share the teaching of the three subjects. We have three teachers for triple science and deliver Biology, Chemistry and Physics independently (we aim to allow staff to teach their specialism whenever possible).

At KS5, we deliver A level Biology, A level Chemistry, A level Physics and A level Environmental Science, with each subject delivering 10 lessons over two weeks. We follow the AQA specifications for both Biology and Chemistry and OCR for Physics. With all three of these qualifications, there is a big emphasis on experimental science and students are assessed on their ability through a series of required practicals. We now also offer BTEC Applied Human Biology. As with the A level courses students receive 10 lessons over two weeks and there is more of an emphasis on project based practical work. This course allows our more vocational students to pursue a suitable post-16 qualification in biology.

At key stage 5, students are invited to join the making medics programme if they wish to pursue a career in medicine. These sessions are run as a part of sixth form enrichment and give them the opportunity to explore medicine as a career. The fortnightly sessions cover a range of topics including cardiology, microbiology, genomics and advanced dissections. They will be taught about the application process, assisted to pick the right University and given support with the UCAT entry tests and mock interviews. As a hub school for Brighton and Sussex medical school, they are also given access to a wealth of resources and taught sessions from university specialists.