

The Science Department



The Science Department is made up of five full time teachers, one part-time teacher and a technician. In Years 8, 9 and 10 Biology, Chemistry and Physics are taught by a single teacher or combination of teachers. At KS4 the CCEA Double Award and Single Award Sciences are taught. We aim as far as possible to keep each teacher within their specialist areas of Science. However, when the needs of the timetable necessitate it, teaching across Biology, Chemistry and Physics may be required. This arrangement necessitates a lot of teamwork within the Department both in sharing information about common classes that are taught by different teachers and to ensure everyone is familiar with the broad range of topics they teach.

At KS3, in line with the revised curriculum, we encourage as much investigative and practical work as possible and to this end we use the “Spotlight Science” books as our main text. The pupils follow a continual assessment structure and their performance is tracked using a ‘traffic light system’ of green – above target, yellow – on target and red – below target.

In Year 8, 9 and 10 classes are partially streamed with 2 top classes and 3 classes of mixed ability. In line with the rest of the school, the average class size at KS3 is 22 and KS4 is 24 with smaller classes in Years 13 and 14.

At GCSE, the CCEA specification is currently followed. Students will study either Double Award or Single Award Science at GCSE. The Science Department closely monitors each student’s progress during Years 8-10 by means of an internal tracking system. Following careful analysis of pupil aptitude and performance we recommend that a number of students study Single Award Science at GCSE to maximise their achievements. Students will be selected as a result of advice from the Science Department, the Vice Principal and after consultation with the pupils and parents.

Those students choosing Occupational Studies will complete Single Award Science.

Chemistry, Biology and Physics are taught at AS and A2 level following the CCEA specification. BTEC Applied Science is also taught post-16.