

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT 2022

Introduction

The Science Department has been a consistently high performing department within the school. The department comprises a strong and committed team of teachers who plan activities collaboratively.

Academic Performance

In Key Stage 4 progress and attainment is consistently very strong. The Science progress scores are usually amongst the strongest in the school averaging between 0.3 and 0.4 in the last three examined years (pre-covid). In this same period the proportion of students gaining grade 4 or above was, on average, between 75% and 80%.

Progress and attainment in the Sixth Form is outstanding. In 2019 (our last examined year) results were as follows;

%A*-B – Biology 59%, Chemistry 79%, Physics – 69%

ALPs – Biology 3, Chemistry 5, Physics 2

Staff and Accommodation

The department is made up of fifteen science teachers, with a blend of experienced teachers and recently qualified teachers. Staff have high expectations and work well together to create an atmosphere in which all students can fulfil their potential.

The department currently has a Key Stage 3 leader, with heads of sciences for the separate A Level subjects and BTEC Applied Science courses. 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 Year 10 and Year 11.

At Key Stage 5 students follow a two-year A Level course, with Biology and Physics using the AQA specification and Chemistry using Edexcel. We also offer a BTEC Applied Science in the Sixth Form. 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 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.