



The Holy Trinity Church of England Secondary School

Department details

DEPARTMENT : Science

The department takes a collaborative approach and values each individual's skills, interests and strategies for teaching and learning. We welcome new ideas and look forward to the involvement of the person appointed in our on-going drive to raise standards even further. We are justly proud of our achievements and believe that our continued successes are due to enthusiasm, commitment and continuous development.

We continually evaluate and develop the materials and texts which we use in order to motivate and best meet the needs of all our students and staff. We believe that good teaching using a variety of appropriate strategies promotes engagement and good behaviour. We encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning and we provide regular opportunities for self and peer assessment.

We value and invest heavily into the professional development of the teachers within the department and encourage colleagues to widen their areas of interest and expertise. All staff are supported through the line-management system and the school has a well-respected induction programme for new staff, who are also mentored by a colleague within the department.

STAFFING STRUCTURE and who's who

There are currently 15 members of teaching staff within the department, including a Lead Practitioner in Science. We are supported by a Specialist LSA and a technician team of 5 staff.

Head of Science, Kevin Berry is supported by Key Stage and Subject Coordinators for Biology, Chemistry, Physics and BTEC Level 2 and 3 courses.

Courses and Exam Boards

The Science department offers AQA GCSE and AS/ A level courses in Core Science, Additional Science and GCSE Biology Chemistry and Physics. We offer the Edexcel BTEC level 2 and level 3 in the 6th form. Our results are consistently above the national average across the key stages. Results for 2013 are as follows.

- 100% of Year 11 GCSE Triple Science students gained A* to C in summer 2013.
- VA for A* to C in GCSE Chemistry is up 2013 and over the last three years.
- Significant improvement in the VA for GCSE Additional and Core Science in 2013.
- 80% A* to C in A level Chemistry in 2012.
- Value Added for all GCSE Science courses has been over a 1000 in 2012 and 2013.

Development Plan Priorities

To improve student outcomes in relation to agreed targets and expectations
To improve the quality of teaching and learning in Science

Additional Department Specific Info

Key Stage 3

In Years 7-9 pupils are split into two half-year groups. Pupils in Year 7 are initially taught in their mixed ability tutor groups with setting taking place in December. Pupils remain in ability sets for the remainder of key stage 3 with some movement between sets as appropriate. The Science department operates two year key stage 3 with students starting their GCSE pathway in year 9.

Key Stage 4

Most students start their GCSEs in Year 9, the majority will continue to study all three sciences as triple science for three years. Some students are more suited to double science and some follow a single science route and attend college in years 10 and 11.

Key Stage 5

Science offers a package of Level 2 and Level 3 BTECS as well as 4 traditional A levels; Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Electronics are among the most popular courses and historic results in these subjects are very good. A large number of A level students go on engineering or technological degrees with a good number undertaking medicine and dentistry.

Accommodation; Events and Activities; Current links with other depts.

The Science Department has 10 laboratories, all with interactive whiteboards one of the rooms are also equipped with 15 computers and there are an additional 15 science laptops that can be booked for use in lessons. Each member of staff is issued with a laptop to help with the preparation, planning and delivery of lessons. There are three Science office areas so that each member of the team has a place for preparation and marking. The laboratories are used by our students and on a number of occasions in the year when we bring in students from our feeder primary schools

Any other Celebration Points

Science students are offered a number of enrichment activities throughout the year which support the wider appreciation of the subject. In Chemistry students have worked with Novartis in Horsham, attended Chemistry courses at local universities. Physics students are following the Engineering Education Scheme for the first time in 2013. Students have visited Cern for enrichment activities and have undertaken the Physics Olympiad. Biology students have taken and have had great success in the Biology Olympiad and The Society of Biology Challenge for lower years. In between AS and A2 Biology the school runs an excellent course for A2 students at Nettle Comb Court in Somerset.

Additional Job Specific Details

There are no additional details