

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: SCIENCE

1. Why is Science important?

Learning about science will fire your curiosity about the world around you. You will learn about how science works, how it affects everyday life and how you can use your science when you work, rest, shop and play. Learning about science will also help you to understand how our world is in a delicate balance, how people's actions affect the world and how they can work together to use science to improve lives.

2. How many Science lessons do you have per week?

Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 have 4 Science lessons and Years 10 & 11 have 5 Science lessons per week. Some students are given extra intervention lessons to help further boost their grade.

3. How much homework would I be set?

Our students are set a weekly homework task based on the topic they are being taught.

4. Which exam board do you use for Science?

Edexcel

5. How is learning organised in Science?

Science is split into the three sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, with a range of topics covered in each one. For example, in Biology, Pupils learn about cells and body systems, in Chemistry, they learn about acids and alkalis, and in Physics, they learn about electricity and space.

Ultimately, the aim is to give pupils opportunities to develop their laboratory, analytical, practical, mathematical and graphical skills across all three sciences. Teachers also plan to develop independent learning and thinking skills, along with communication and confidence, which not only benefits them within school but also in their wider life. Most topics give an insight to how the learning within the classroom can be linked to real life, with a real depth of how science is around us all the time.

6. What opportunities do we provide to enrich the learning of our students in Science?

We deliver a weekly Science Club to our KS3 students during lunchtimes to further demonstrate the exciting part of Science with lots of links made to their everyday life. Pupils are also given the opportunity to go on science-based trips and have the chance to enter national competitions and represent the school, such as the SALTERS Challenge. In addition, we invite external guests, from BAE to award winning professionals in different fields of science, who really inspire our pupils to further their knowledge and understanding of this ever evolving subject.

7. Which qualifications do our students complete in Science?

At the end of Year 11, students will either qualify with Combined Science (two GCSE grades) or then Separate Sciences (with three GCSE grades).

8. What is the difference between Combined Science and Separate Science?

Combined Science consists of studying topics from across all three sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will undertake core practical investigations which they will be assessed on in their GCSE exams. Students sit six papers at the end of Y11, two papers for each science. Each paper is 1 hour and 10 minutes in length, and pupils receive two GCSE grades at the end of the qualification.

For Separate Sciences, pupils study more topics and in further depth, undertake more core practical investigations within the same period of time. At the end of the course, they complete six exams, which are 1 hour 45 minutes each, and qualify with three GCSE grades at the end of the course.

9. How do we decide which students are selected for Separate Science?

Student assessment results from KS3 play a vital role in order to help make this decision. Student performance in cumulative assessments and the end of KS3 exams completed in Y8 play a vital role. Once the decision is made, students are asked if they are happy with the decision made.

10. What do we do to support less able students to make more progress in Science?

There is lots of targeted support provided to students during lesson with lots of differentiated resources and methods of teaching. We also provide lunchtime and after school intervention sessions for those students who require further support to achieve their target level.

11. How well do our students perform in Science?

Alhamdulillah, our results have been fantastic year upon year, with the highest level of progress made in the country. Our science team consists of teachers with amazing levels of enthusiasm, dedication, and knowledge, who are forever ready to go the extra mile for our learners. In 2020, 100% of our students achieved a Grade 7-9 for Separate Sciences and all our Combined Science students passed with a Grade 4 or above.

12. What do our students do after studying Science?

Students can progress onto 6th Form to either study A-Level Sciences or complete a BTEC in Science. This provides opportunities for students to progress onto University courses such as Engineering, Medicine, Optometry, Dentistry, Radiographer, Nursing and many more!