

Chemistry Department Information

Chemistry is taught throughout the school by subject specialists. The department consists of four full-time teachers and is supported by two specialist technicians.

Teaching facilities include three well-equipped laboratories. There is also a preparation room and a work room. The department is well-resourced with up to date equipment. Investigative work is included in the teaching at all levels. Key skills such as communication, group work, data handling and problem solving are incorporated into lessons and attention is given to keeping abreast of new developments in teaching styles and in understanding how children learn. All the laboratories have projectors and we have class sets of data loggers by Data Harvest for use throughout the age range.

In Year 7 and 8 each girl has six periods of Science per fortnight and they work through a rolling cycle of Biology, Chemistry and Physics every six weeks overseen by the Key stage 3 science co-ordinator.

The emphasis is on practical and investigative work in order to develop the skills that will be required for GCSE and beyond. The GCSE course starts in Year 9.

In Years 9, 10 and 11 the girls follow the Edexcel Science GCSE syllabus, all taking separate Sciences. They have carried out most of the foundation level material lower down in the school, and the aim is to revisit some topics, teaching at greater depth and tackling new topics. There are four periods of Chemistry each fortnight in Year 9 and six periods of Chemistry per fortnight in Years 10 and 11.

Chemistry is a popular option at A level, with around 35-40% of the cohort taking the subject each year. The teaching groups have six or seven lessons per fortnight, which are shared by two members of staff.

Chemistry is combined with a wide variety of subjects at A level including Biology, Physics, Mathematics and Geography. We follow the AQA A level syllabus. Work in the Sixth Form is extended by educational talks and attendance at specialised lectures at London Universities.