

The Science Department

Background:

- This is an enthusiastic, innovative and successful department which is committed to nurturing all pupils to enable them to fulfil their potential in all aspects of science
- In addition to the head of department (HOD), the structure allows for three promoted post holders

Staffing:

- There are eight full time and one part time science teachers
- The development of staff is actively encouraged through departmental monitoring, target setting and CPD opportunities
- All members of the department are encouraged to take an active role in planning the development of the department

Resources:

- Each teacher is based principally in her/his own teaching base with its own interactive whiteboard and interactive ICT resources
- The department is well resourced to facilitate the delivery of carefully structured schemes of work
- There is also ready access to the school's extensive ICT network
- The schemes of work are designed to enable pupils to fulfil all the national curriculum requirements and to progress effectively through the key stages

Approaches to teaching and learning:

- A range of teaching styles is employed in the department in line with the national strategy with the emphasis on positive reinforcement of the pupils' abilities
- Teacher assessment, pupil self-assessment and target setting are used half-termly in order to raise standards of attainment and encourage pupil motivation across the ability range
- At KS4 pupils follow either AQA core or AQA core and additional syllabuses

Curriculum Organisation:

The timetable allocation for science is as follows (based on a 50 period fortnight):

- Year 7 6 periods
 - Years 8 & 9 6 periods
 - KS4 8 periods
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- In years 7 and 8 pupils are grouped by general ability
 - In years 9, 10 and 11 pupils are arranged in half-year blocks and are set by ability and potential in science