

Science

In Years 7 & 8, students are taught in mixed ability classes following a course that incorporates Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Lessons are taught largely in our modern and well-equipped laboratories that support our department's practical approach to Science. The range of practical activities aims further to develop scientific knowledge and understanding as well as introducing the skills of designing, planning, conducting, analysing and evaluating scientific experiments. Students are assessed throughout Years 7 & 8 through topic tests, end of module examinations and assessed practical activities. In Year 9, students study distinct courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and are taught in sets. These are initially determined by performance during Years 7 & 8 but progress is monitored carefully and movement between sets is made when necessary. During Year 9, students begin studying topics from the GCSE course in each of the sciences.

Currently at GCSE, students study for a qualification in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics or follow the Double Science course which covers topics from each of the sciences and culminates in students being awarded two GCSEs. Both of these courses provide students with an opportunity to study a range of aspects of modern Science, building on and broadening their knowledge and further developing their practical skills.

A rich programme of extra-curricular activities exists, including a weekly lunchtime Science Club for the lower school students. Students currently enjoy a trip to Whipsnade Zoo in Year 7, the Big Bang Fair in Year 8, whilst the A Level biologists visit the Eden Project and A Level physicists fly over to CERN to learn more about the Hadron Collider.

Students can also take part in activities to develop their creativity, problem-solving and employability skills, such as a wide range of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) projects. These have included Go4SET team projects, workshops hosted by the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Smallpeice Trust. They also engage in the LEGO League Robotics and the Rampaging Chariots competitions, supported by Leonardo.

Visits to local companies and national events, such as the Farnborough Air Show, Imagination Technologies, Diamond Light Source, the BRE and the Houses of Parliament have also been offered to students.