

Science

In Years 7 & 8, students are taught in mixed ability classes following a course that incorporates Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Lessons are taught in our brand new, fully equipped science laboratories that support our department's practical approach to Science. The range of practical activities aims to further 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 and 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 and 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 (Triple Science) or follow the Double Science course which covers topics from each of the sciences and culminates in students being awarded two GCSEs. All students follow the content as stipulated by the AQA specification. 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 STEM Club for the lower school students. Students currently enjoy learning outside of the laboratory with a trip to Whipsnade Zoo in Year 7 and Kew Gardens in Year 8. A Level students also have a range of extra-curricular opportunities, including participating in the Biology and Chemistry olympiads, Dissection Society, Orbyts, Brain Day and a visit 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 include the IET's Industrial Cadets Bronze and Gold Projects, the First LEGO League Robotics competition and the Rampaging Chariots competitions, supported by Leonardo.