

Science at Plympton Academy

The Science Department has twelve members of teaching staff and two laboratory technicians; all of which are highly skilled. The team are both dedicated and committed to strive to improve the teaching and learning of all students as well as sharing their vast range of experience to improve the knowledge and understanding of all staff members. The team works well together to share and develop their practice as well as supporting each other through the ever-changing curriculum and world of education.

The nine science laboratories and two preparation rooms are situated in one building. The classrooms are each equipped with a computer, whiteboard and projector as well as the standard equipment expected of all science classrooms. The team has produced and shared a range of high quality resources, via Google drive, that the department uses and adapts to teach the curriculum and our students of varying needs.

KS3 students (Years 7 and 8) are taught in sets based on their abilities across the core subjects. The students follow an in-house science scheme of learning covering key Biology (Systems and Organisation), Chemistry (Particles and Reactions) and Physics (Forces and Energy) units. We have eight Year 7 sets and eight year 8 sets. Some sets are taught by one teacher and others are split between two teachers. Each year group has six hours per fortnight in science lessons. We review classes on a regular basis to ensure students are best placed to achieve their full potential.

KS4 students (Years 9-11) are taught in sets based on their abilities across the core subjects. All students follow the AQA Combined Science Trilogy GCSE. All students have access to the online Kerboodle textbook. All students are taught three hours of Biology, three hours of Chemistry and three hours of Physics on a fortnightly basis. Students will sit either the higher or foundation level course based on their minimum expected grades and assessment evidence.

KS5 students (Years 12-13) have the opportunity to study A Level Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics. All students follow the OCR A specifications for these subjects. We also offer the Pearson BTEC Applied Science Level 3 award at post 16. All students must meet the entry requirements at GCSE to be accepted on these courses at A Level.

As a department we aim to offer all students regular opportunities for enrichment. These have included a range of external speakers and trips to Universities to explore a range of different career paths and extend learning opportunities. In addition, the department offers weekly revision sessions and lunchtime homework support sessions. We also have two members of staff with inbuilt timetable slots for Primary Liaison where we deliver a range of practical lessons to students in years 4-6. We are also lucky to have a STEM leader as part of the Science department who organises a range of enrichment and career-based activities to enthuse students further, and encourage potential future Scientists to explore a range of

higher education opportunities.

As a department, we have a real drive and focus to monitor and track the learning of all individual students across the Sciences. All students should succeed in our care.

We are seeking to appoint a teacher with passion, drive, enthusiasm and motivation to deliver high quality teaching and learning opportunities for all students. We require innovative and fresh approaches to developing Science at Plympton Academy in order to further promote a love of learning science and to inspire young people to reach their full potential.

For more information on Science at Plympton Academy please contact Miss Emma Hagan, Head of Science (hagane@plympton.academy).