

## **DEPARTMENT INFORMATION – SCIENCE – SUBJECT LEADER OF PHYSICS**

### **The Science Department**

Stratford upon Avon School's Science department has a history of being one of the strengths of this school and has a proven record of consistent high standards in the classroom, high achievement in public examinations and a strong ethos of collaborative and supportive teamwork.

### **Leadership**

We are ideally seeking a visionary leader who will help shape the future curriculum and manage high quality daily experiences for our students. We expect the successful candidate to be a strong classroom practitioner.

Our deliberate way of working has developed a very strong group of middle leaders at Stratford who have responded very well to our blend of autonomy and accountability. As a leader, you will find a positive working environment supported by the Science Curriculum Leader, peers, Lead Practitioners and members of SLT. The school is 'well led by many'. We will help you develop as a leader.

### **Curriculum**

The school has seized the initiative in developing our curriculum.

*"They benefit from a carefully planned and organised curriculum. Leaders' careful checks on what is happening mean that they know where learning is really strong and where there is still some work to be done."* (Ofsted 2020)

Subjects are expected to have common schemes of work and are in the process of developing common evidence-based strategies to reinforce learning and the retention of knowledge. Students *"are taught the things they need to know, in the right order, so they can remember this new knowledge and build on their learning. But this is not yet consistent enough."* (Ofsted 2020).

You will be expected to have, or be developing, a strong grasp of curriculum related issues in order to help shape our future direction.

The Head of Department is currently supported by a Deputy and two Assistant Curriculum Leaders. The intent is that each of these three will effectively be Subject Leader for one of the Sciences disciplines. The Science Leadership oversee the schemes of learning, assessment and support teaching staff to develop their pedagogy to best secure student progress.

KS3 students follow the National Program of Study with a newly developed and well-resourced Scheme of Learning. These support students to acquire scientific knowledge and develop practical skills to allow them to progress to the new GCSE specifications. Assessment at KS3 is conducted by regular low-stakes assessment in class and half-termly progress tests.

We run a three year KS4 during which students follow the AQA GCSE courses. Around 20% of our KS4 cohort take three separate sciences to GCSE with the remainder examined in the Trilogy Combined Science course. Our teachers follow the newly developed and well-resourced schemes of learning which incorporate subject content, practical and mathematical skills throughout the course. Assessment is via regular short diagnoses allowing development of exam technique along with end of topic synoptic progress tests.

Biology (AQA), Chemistry (OCR) and Physics (AQA) are taught at A Level, along with Applied Science (AQA) and these courses are a particular strength of the department. KS5 students have 10 hours of contact per subject allowing us to explore topics in greater breadth and to take time to fulfil the practical requirements of the course with greater depth.

## **Staff**

The Science team is positive, friendly and forward looking and many members of the department take a leading role in whole school development. All of these strengthen the bond between staff and students and help to make the department an enjoyable and fulfilling place to work.

There are thirteen experienced and able specialists involved in the delivery of the Science curriculum, three of whom also have whole school responsibility as a Leading Practitioner or Assistant Head Teacher. The Science department enjoys the invaluable support from an excellent technician team and a dedicated Teaching Assistant to facilitate student progress.

Members of the department make full use of the opportunity to attend appropriate courses at local and national level. We work closely with local ITT providers and offer our full support to colleagues wishing to pursue their studies at Certificate, Diploma and Masters Level. We also have a good track record of supporting NQTs through induction via our departmental training program, regular mentoring with an assigned member of the team running alongside the whole school program.

Staff within the department run a number of extracurricular activities to complement learning in lessons. Trips and visiting presenters are arranged throughout the year for all Key Stages and we regularly celebrate National Science week with events and demonstrations.

## **The Facilities**

The department is well equipped, having eleven well-resourced laboratories, two preparation rooms and a staff resource base. A wealth of equipment allows practical activities to take place regularly within lessons. There may well be additional developments in future as we are in the process of developing/expanding our site due to our increasing popularity and increased admissions applications.

This is certainly an exciting time to join a successful well-resourced, growing school.

## **Conclusion**

We are looking to strengthen our team by employing a developing leader and Physics specialist with a strong passion for their subject. The ability to teach Science at all Key Stages would be advantageous.

We look forward to welcoming a well-qualified colleague who will work with us to build on established strengths and contribute to the continuing success of the department and school.

This is an exciting opportunity for the right person to develop their career. I look forward to receiving your application.

Dr Vicky Larnier, Curriculum Leader Science/Leading Practitioner  
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