

## **DEPARTMENT INFORMATION - SCIENCE**

### **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, dedication to school policies, high achievement in public examinations and a strong ethos of collaborative and supportive teamwork.

### **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.

### **Curriculum**

The Head of Department is supported by a Deputy and two Assistant Curriculum Leaders. 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 25% 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 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 fourteen experienced and able specialist teachers 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 has 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.

### **Conclusion**

We are looking to strengthen our team by employing an enthusiastic person with an interest in science to support the practical learning in our curriculum.

We look forward to welcoming a passionate 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 begin or develop their career. I look forward to receiving your application.

Dr Vicky Larnar, Curriculum Leader Science/Leading Practitioner April 2021