

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.

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 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 fifteen experienced and able specialists involved in the delivery of the Science curriculum, three of whom also have whole school responsibility as a Lead 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 Science 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 Larner, Curriculum Leader Science/Lead Practitioner
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