

# KS3 Science

We are a team of enthusiastic teachers who are totally committed to delivering high quality experiences that engage our students with all aspects of science. Students are challenged and excited by the wide curriculum which is underpinned by knowledge and application of factual information, as well as investigation and learning relevant skills and practical methodologies. There is a focus on developing students' literacy and extended writing in addition to numeracy, including data analysis and statistical application.

In Key Stage 3, we build upon the science skills and context acquired by students in primary school and develop their interest, knowledge and understanding of the subject. All students have six hours of science per fortnight in Years 7 and 8. We deliver our own bespoke course at Key Stage 3, based on the Activate programme of study and the new AQA key stage 3 science specification. Progress is monitored every lesson and then more formally through department-wide testing and skills-based assessments.

In years 7 & 8, students learn about the diversity of the world around them, combining content and knowledge across the three science disciplines: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. We deliver this through exciting and relevant lessons where students study a varied curriculum, such as chemical reactions, cells & digestion, energy and waves. Students are given opportunities to develop their scientific skills, investigating practically as well as planning, analysing and evaluating.

**Assessment:** Students complete a wide range of assessment activities in every lesson, which may include structured practicals, analysis of experiments, discussion activities and tests. Students are regularly given opportunities to work individually and in groups, which means we utilise self, peer and teacher assessment. More formal assessment takes place every half term, where all students complete a skills activity and an end of unit test. This provides us with a detailed picture of how well your child is doing in Science. In Science we encourage students to reflect on their achievements regularly, to know exactly how to achieve a level that reflects their ability and to also offer clear strategies to help them improve.

**Independent study:** Independent study will usually take the form of an extended learning project to complete over a half term. Projects have previously included tasks such as boat making, making soundproof boxes and growing plants. The independent study tasks have been designed to engage all types of learners, allowing students to manage their time well and spend time out of lessons completing meaningful science work. Students will also be expected to develop revision techniques and strategies at home in preparation for their end of topic tests and may also be asked to complete skills assessments out of lesson too.

**Enrichment:** During the academic year, students have the opportunity to visit many science attractions, including Paignton Zoo, the Festival of Chemistry, and the STEM Project day at Exeter University. We encourage keen scientists to get involved in other department clubs and activities, which will be made available through the year, including British Science Week.