



THE CHARLES DICKENS SCHOOL – SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Facilities

The department has seven well-equipped modern laboratories, and two partially equipped laboratories. All laboratories and classrooms are equipped with the latest interactive white boards. There is also a large preparation room to serve them. We have various data-logging equipment and software that are used in all Key Stages as well as all of the usual equipment that you would expect of a modern school. There is an office for staff use.

Key Stage 3

Students follow the National Curriculum in Years 7 and 8. The course is arranged into topics which are Biology, Physics or Chemistry based. There is a heavy emphasis on key scientific knowledge, planning, carrying out of practicals as well as developing independent investigative skills. Students are taught in set groups ranging from high ability to low ability and have eight sixty minute lessons per fortnight.

Key Stage 4

Science forms a compulsory part of the Key Stage 4 curriculum. In Key Stage 4, all students take AQA Combined science (trilogy in years, 9, 10 and 11) which is organised into separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics, all delivered by one Science teacher. The GCSE course is delivered over three years with eight lessons a fortnight in Years 9, 10 and 11.

In all disciplines a strong emphasis is placed on building the student's core scientific knowledge and regular retrieval practice to ensure all students become lifelong learners of Science. This is to not only enable them to excel in the science GCSEs but also transfer their knowledge and understanding to make sense of the science in the world outside of school.

Beyond The Curriculum

The science department runs a well-resourced STEM club where the students use Lego Spike Prime kits to build and programme robots. We also have a garden and a number of students in our gardening club and 'Eco club' help to keep the outside spaces around the school looking fresh and tidy. The department also supports a large number of Key Stage 4 students through supported study sessions.

Staffing

The current team includes a Director of Science, supported by three seconds in charge and six other teaching staff