Science at Washwood Heath Academy

Key Stage 3

Science at Key Stage 3 is a balance Science curriculum covering topics from Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Key Stage 4

Triple Science
Some students in top set Science will have the opportunity to take Biology, Chemistry and Physics. If you intend to take Science at A Level it is highly recommended you take Triple Science.

Additional Science
Some students if they are in middle to top Science sets, will have the opportunity to take Biology, Chemistry and Physics. If you are thinking if taking Science at A Level you should think about taking Additional Science.

Core Science
All students have the opportunity to take core Science as part of their compulsory curriculum.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum
Science has made many exciting and major developments in its dynamic KS3 curriculum. The resources are differentiated and complete with interactive software which will be accessible via the school’s VLE - Whoodle. There is an increased emphasis on practical work. We have piloted and now fully implemented the use of online assessments and homework package called “Doddle”. Pupils are made aware of their progress at all times which helps to prepare them for their choices in the KS4 Science Curriculum.

KS4 Science curriculum

GCSE Science
Students in Key Stage 4 are taught in sets selected by the options process as well as data from KS2 Science.

Currently in year 10
Current students in year 10 are taught Core GCSE Science with all exams taking place at the end of year 10. Pupils will then continue to study Additional Science in year 11 taking all exams at the end of Year 11. Pupils who have shown greater attainment in their Core Science (minimum grade B) can opt to choose Further Additional Science Year 11 gaining another GCSE Science Grade.

Currently in year 9
Most able students in Year 9 (minimum end of year 8 level of 5.5 and current GCSE module average grade B) will be encouraged to opt into GCSE Biology at the end of Year 10. These students will have the opportunity to opt into Science again in Year 11 to complete GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics. This pathway will enable students to secure Triple Science by the end of Year 11.

Currently in year 8
Most able students currently in Year 8 (with a minimum end of year 8 level of 5.5) will have the opportunity to follow a Triple Science Pathway with Biology GCSE at the end Year 10 and Chemistry GCSE and Physics GCSE in Year 11. There is a second option available in Y8 (for students with KS2 level 4.5 - 5.5) who can opt for Additional Science which is a 3 year programme.

All the Science GCSE courses are linear and are examined by the AQA examination board on set dates in the summer examination session. Pupils in all courses are expected to complete one examined piece of Science Coursework. The courses also look at the place of science in society and how the scientific
process is used to contribute to the answers to moral and social questions. Pupils most in need of intervention are further supported through a rigorous intervention programme which includes morning, after school and occasionally Saturday sessions to ensure all students achieve or exceed their challenge targets.

**BTEC Science**

Some of our students follow the new BTEC Firsts in Principles of Applied Science (Level 2), which has been developed to focus on providing opportunities for learners to gain a nationally recognised vocationally specific qualification. This provides opportunities for learners who might want to work in the applied science industry or in an organisation that uses science to develop their underpinning knowledge and scientific skills. Evidence is obtained through context based practical/written investigations, where learners are building a portfolio of evidence to meet the grading criteria. There is now an element of externally assessed exams in BTEC Science contributing a maximum of 25% towards the final level. The qualification is assessed and awarded as a pass, merit, distinction or distinction*.

**Why take Science?**

- Exciting
- Informative
- Feeds curiosity

For further info contact: Mr K. Brown:

**Head of Science**