

Subject: Chemistry	Awarding Body: AQA
Head of Dept: Mr Murray-Smith	Teachers: Mrs Boyle

Preferred entry requirements:

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry or a grade 6-6 in Combined Science (with a component breakdown in favour of Chemistry). A grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics is also preferable. Exceptional circumstances are always considered.

Specification Content

A level: Assessment

Paper 1	Physical chemistry, inorganic chemistry and relevant practical skills. 2 hour written examination; 35% of A level
Paper 2	Physical chemistry, organic chemistry and relevant practical skills. 2 hour written examination; 35% of A level
Paper 3	Any relevant content and practical skills. 2 hour written examination; 30% of A level

Structure of the course:

The course covers the three important areas of chemistry: physical, inorganic and organic. All three areas will be covered during Year 1 with many areas being revisited in Year 2 of the course. In Year 2, knowledge, understanding and skills are developed further, requiring deeper understanding of the concepts already covered. A level Chemistry involves a good deal of practical work to which a significant amount of time is devoted and the skills gained through carrying out practical tasks during the course will be examined in Paper 3, with some relevant skills also being examined in Paper 1 and 2. Teacher assessed practical skills and 12 required practical activities are incorporated into the course leading to a practical endorsement.

Method:

Teaching is well structured to allow students to further develop ideas met at GCSE Chemistry. Students will be expected to work collaboratively and independently by tackling questions and exercises which stretch them to the limits of their abilities. There are opportunities for students to produce presentations to enhance their learning and modelling of concepts will be used to help with the understanding of more challenging aspects of the course. Practical work will form an integral part of the course and will link into theoretical work at all stages.

Strengths/Skills developed through studying this subject:

Students will improve their understanding of Chemistry and its importance in today's society. They will begin to understand the mechanisms of chemical reactions and why structure and bonding in a substance determines its physical and chemical properties. Students will learn to develop logical thought, problem solving and will improve their mathematical skills. Practical skills and manual dexterity will be improved by learning how to manipulate sensitive and accurate pieces of apparatus to obtain precise results.

What students do with this qualification:

Chemistry is an important qualification for any medical or scientific career. It is often a pre-requisite for some courses so prospective students should check to see if they definitely need Chemistry for a particular course. Forensic science, criminal law, architecture, materials science, engineering, dentistry, medicine, physiotherapy, pharmacy, ophthalmology, dietetics are some of the many vocational courses which may require an A Level Chemistry qualification.