What will you learn?

Our rigorous course strikes the right balance between traditional and contemporary chemistry, and is sufficiently challenging to provide an excellent platform for A-level. The course also allows students to have the choice between double award or separate science routes. Students learn the basic principles of chemistry through a mix of theoretical and practical studies and, although there is no coursework, the practical skills of the students are assessed in written papers. Study during Years 9 – 11 develops the students scientific enquiry skills; their ability to explain changes observed at macro and microscopic level, the capacity to interpret and critically assess others’ interpretations, and their dexterity in practical work.

How is the subject taught?

The I/GCSE chemistry course by Edexcel will be taught by a subject expert in one of our dedicated chemistry laboratories. In both double award and separate science routes students will have at least one double lesson of 80 minutes per week which normally is devoted to practical work. Our enthusiastic teachers aim to foster an awareness not only of the vast number of applications of chemistry but also the economic, moral and social implications of the subject.

Facilities, expeditions and more...

We are fortunate to have four state of the art chemistry laboratories which are fully stocked with laboratory equipment. Practical work is supported by an experienced laboratory technician and dedicated preparation room. Each laboratory has an interactive projector, visualiser and plenty of whiteboard space. Class sets of laptops and iPads are also available for use when required. Students are encouraged to attend enrichment lectures and events that are organised throughout the year including GCSE Science Live in Oxford. Further opportunity for project work is provided by the CREST scheme for Year 9 and 10 and the RSC Top of the bench team competition.

What do students say?

“I love experiments and seeing the effects of reactions in front of my eyes.”

“The friendly atmosphere in class means that it is easy to ask questions if you’re unsure about anything.”

“Chemistry is hands on and relevant to many different spheres of life.”

“It is constantly changing and updating itself, making it exciting – it is a big puzzle – all interlocking.”

“I leave every lesson feeling that I’ve learned something new.”

Who teaches it?

Middle School chemistry is taught by subject specialists, which currently consists of three full time and two part-time teachers. All teachers have deep experience in a variety of aspects such as analytical chemistry, organic synthesis and electrochemistry. We are all passionate about our subject and willing to discuss topics beyond the specification as well as support those who find chemistry more challenging.

Dr Graeme Smith, Head of Chemistry

Results gained in 2018:

GCSE chemistry:

96% at A*/A (80% A*)

FACT FILE