



# BEAUCHAMPS HIGH SCHOOL

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Science has a very important status at Beauchamps, providing the knowledge, rational understanding and thinking skills underpinning the Core Curriculum.

The Science Department is served by thirteen experienced teachers and two trainee teachers. The team works collaboratively to develop resources and improve teaching and learning within the department. The team is dynamic and displays a good mix of Biologists, Chemists and Physicists. The team teaches general Science in Years 7 to 8, a KS3 to KS4 transition curriculum in Year 9, and a varied KS4 programme of BTEC Applied Science, GCSE Core and Additional Science, as well as individual GCSE's in each of the Science disciplines. There then follows a choice of Science A Levels at KS5, supported by five accomplished technicians.

The department's accommodation consists of nine specialist laboratories, one of which has been set up to house the majority of our A Level teaching, and one ICT suite. There are three preparation rooms with associated chemical and resource storage. Within the school there are six ICT suites which can be booked by teachers for their classes. For the most part, teaching staff are based in their 'own' laboratory.

Science is currently taught for three hours per week in Years 7-9. Key Stage 3 students follow the department's own scheme of work in Years 7 and 8, following the national curriculum and benefitting from a contextual approach to Science. Year 9 are following a transition course, incorporating the biological, chemical, physical and 'How Science Works' aspects of the National Curriculum whilst developing the skills and knowledge base for GCSE. In 2014, 91% of Year 9 students achieved Level 5 and 66% achieved level 6 and above in Science.

At Key Stage 4, students have a choice between a BTEC Applied Science course, GCSE Double Award and a Specialist Triple Science course. Students on the BTEC Applied Science course and the GCSE Double Award course study Science for four hours per week. Students who choose Triple Science are given an additional three hours per week. GCSE students follow Edexcel specifications. In all our Science courses we encourage the development of Science process skills, including problem solving, in contexts that emphasise the everyday and industrial applications of Science. Students are advised to follow the individual programme at KS4 which will allow them the greatest success and progression routes. In 2014, Key Stage 4 results rose significantly and the department celebrated its best results on record. All triple courses celebrated in excess of 90% A\*- C and over the entire year group, 75% achieved 2 A\*- C grades in science qualifications.

The current A Level courses running are AQA Biology, Edexcel Chemistry and AQA Physics. They are well supported and have seen rising numbers and again the best results in recent years. In 2014, the Biology department celebrated results in the top 25% of the country and Chemistry and Physics are on track to follow.