



THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

There are eleven full-time and one part time members of the Science Department teaching staff of whom three teach AS/A2-Level Biology, four teach AS/A2 Chemistry and three teach AS/A2 Physics. BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Applied Science is also offered. All staff teach their specialist subject at Key Stage 4, as part of a coordinated curriculum. Students are offered the opportunity to study double or separate science as well as GCSE Astronomy. Staff also teach a general science course for KS3.

The Department is situated in one area of the school and is housed in ten laboratories plus 2 dedicated teaching rooms. It is supported by a large prep room and three technicians who coordinate the provision of equipment for practical work. The Science Department is well resourced, including an extensive digital library, laptops, a wide range of textbooks, data logging equipment, and a good stock of specialist equipment. All laboratories are connected to the school network and are equipped with data projectors and interactive whiteboards.

The staff are highly committed, enthusiastic and supportive of each other. All staff teach across the age and ability range and teach within their specialisms at Key Stage 4 and 5. We aim to develop an enthusiasm for science through a dynamic and varied approach and cultivate lively and enquiring minds. At the same time we are keen to demonstrate the relevance of science to life in general. All staff are committed to enabling each pupil achieve his or her potential and personalised learning pathways are offered to all students.

This approach has led to success in many areas. The Department is proud of a thriving Science and 'Eco' club which encompasses all age ranges and has contributed to the whole school environment. Students are also offered opportunities to achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold Crest Awards. This has fostered an enthusiasm for science at GCSE and last year 94% of students gained grades A*-C. Currently there are 185 students studying one or more Sciences at Key Stage 5. Results for A-level and AS are similarly high for Biology (AQA), Chemistry (AQA) and Physics (AQA), with a high proportion of students progressing to read Science or Engineering, including Oxbridge entrance.

The Science Department has strong links with several companies, notably Glaxo SmithKline, which supports learning for all ages and SETPOINT Herts, to embrace all STEM initiatives and opportunities. Key Stage 5 students independently lead a Medical Society and a Maths and Physics Society, together organising lectures and enrichment activities. The department provides a number of cross-curricular and enrichment opportunities, such as visits to CERN, and the history of scientific research through the Imperial War Museum and visits to Auschwitz. Each of the specialist subjects are committed to supporting learning with additional 'learning clinics' and always seek to have an 'open door' approach to support. We are keen to encourage all students in the study of science beyond the school.

Science staff make a major contribution to the life of the school and their talents are many and varied, be they musical, dramatic or sporting. Departmental members recognise the high value of engagement between pupils and staff outside Science lessons.