

SCIENCE

Course Outline

Science is a core subject and studied by all students from Year 7 to Year 11. At Key Stage 3, students have six lessons a fortnight and follow an integrated scheme containing a variety of both theory and practical lessons. Our most able students follow an accelerated KS3 curriculum enabling them to engage with GCSE work in Year 9. Entry is assessed based on academic performance throughout Year 7.

In Key Stage 4, the majority of students follow a modular course that prepares them for a Double Award in GCSE, i.e. they receive two GCSEs. These students receive nine lessons per fortnight in Year 10 and Year 11. Some students who require a more tailored curriculum will follow the single science route and will ultimately receive one GCSE grade in Science. However, for the individuals who see Science as a fundamental to their further aspirations, or simply those with a keen interest in the subject we do offer Triple Science, covering a more detailed course and yielding the potential for three excellent GCSE grades.

All lessons are taught in one of ten well equipped Science laboratories, each with its own interactive whiteboard, giving the opportunity to develop and hone both practical and investigatory skills as appropriate throughout the Year groups.

Key Stage 3

All students follow a course that has been written by the staff to meet the demands for Years 7, 8 and 9. We use a variety of teaching approaches designed to stimulate interest in the subject. We are keen to develop the students thinking skills, presentation skills and investigatory skills all underpinned with interactive lessons using the whiteboard to stimulate and develop a knowledge of up-to-date approaches.

The course is taught on a module basis mixing the traditional Biology, Chemistry and Physics subjects into a broad curriculum. Each term every pupil sits a test that staff use to set appropriate targets and check progress. Along with formal tests, individual student targets are also set using 'thinking skill' exercises and practical-based experimental investigation information too. These are set using the Levels Mountain - this helps students identify the next steps that they need to take in their learning, in order to access the next level.

Key Stage 4

The course places an increased emphasis on assessing pupil's ability to apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to how science works in contexts which are relevant to the role of Science in today's society. In Year 10 students study core Science which is assessed externally throughout the year. Three further modules are taught in Year 11 and these are assessed as three written exams. A number of Investigative Skills Assessments will be completed throughout the two years which contribute 25% of the final GCSE grade in both Year 10 and Year 11. Students with a particular aptitude or interest in Science can opt for the separate sciences, gaining three GCSE grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Beyond the Classroom

Our aim is to provide students with opportunities to study topics that prepare them for life in the 21st Century. Throughout their time at Tanbridge we will give them the chance to access the internet to promote research and curiosity in the constantly evolving world we live in. We provide them with trips to either local or nationally renowned scientific institutions. They will also be able to continue their enthusiasm toward the subject through an extra-curricular Science club.

Parental Support

We welcome the support that parents provide for the students we teach. This can be offered through purchasing revision guides, promoting the completion of homeworks, and using the VLE to provide opportunities to extend students' learning.