

# **A LEVEL CHEMISTRY**

**Exam Board: AQA**



## **Where do I start from?**

You will need to meet the School's minimum entry requirements. Please also refer to the Sixth Form Minimum Entry Requirements information sheet. For this subject, for Separate Science a Grade 7 in Chemistry is required, for Double Award Science students, Grades 77 are required. A minimum Grade 6 is required in Maths. Students at Northampton School *for Boys* will have studied AQA GCSE Science either as separate sciences or as double award. This is a good general grounding in all the Sciences.

## **What will I study?**

Chemistry is about the study of elements and their compounds, together with factors that affect their reactions.

In year 1 you will study 3 units, one looking at physical chemistry, one at inorganic chemistry and finally, one on organic chemistry. In year 2 the course has an identical structure but in each of the three areas you will study new chemical ideas and extend and apply those learnt in year 1.

## **How will I be assessed?**

Throughout each of the modules you will sit a range of key assignments that will inform you of your understanding of recent work covered. At the end of each module you will then sit a test checking your overall understanding. Termly assessments are supplemented by internal examinations.

The Public Examinations at the end of Year 13 consist of 6 hours of exams spread across 3 papers. There is no coursework for the A level. All understanding of practical

work is assessed in the written papers. Your ability to carry out a range of practical skills is monitored in class by your teachers and reported to the exam board as achieved or not achieved. This is called the practical endorsement; it is expected that all students will achieve this unless there are exceptional circumstances.

## **How will I study?**

The AQA course is structured in such a way that you will develop your knowledge in the 3 broad divisions of the subject, physical, inorganic and organic chemistry.

You will have access to a text book and also the online resource Kerboodle. This offers you a range of support and extension materials to help you study. We put a good deal of emphasis on supporting Chemical numeracy which is a key aspect of the new A level.

Throughout the course you will also be exposed to a broad range of past paper materials and practice questions to prepare you for the exams.

## **Which subjects combine well with Chemistry?**

Chemistry, especially in Year 13, involves the application of Mathematics. Mathematics would be a useful A Level to study alongside Chemistry. Parts of the Chemistry course link in well with understanding chemical aspects of Biology, especially genetics and enzyme activity.

Students who study other Science A Level subjects in conjunction with Chemistry will find that such a combination supports an understanding of concepts that feature across the other subjects.