A LEVEL CHEMISTRY
Exam Board: AQA

Sixth Form

Where do I start from?

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.

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.