

Broughton Hall Catholic High School

Science Department

Departmental Descriptions

The Science Department has been led by Mr Brierley since 1999 and is presently comprised of 11 full time teachers and 3 technicians. Miss Skiming has responsibility for KS4 and Chemistry, Mrs Williams has responsibility for Biology and KS3 matters are coordinated by Mrs Lofthouse. Broughton Hall Science is a friendly and forward thinking department to work in, offering help to new staff whether they are trainees or experienced teachers.

The science department offers courses at KS3 which deliver a national programme of study in preparation for studies at KS4 where both GCSE Separate Sciences and Trilogy combined Science qualifications are studied. At KS5 A-level courses in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and a Technical Vocational Qualification in Applied Science have proved both popular and successful.

Our aims are to:

1. Develop and maintain students' interest in Science and related disciplines.
2. Develop in our students a wide and relevant body of scientific knowledge and understanding.
3. Help students to develop investigative skills across Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
4. Continue to develop both literacy and numeracy within a scientific context.
5. Develop transferable skills such as problem solving within our students.

The department has always believed that education is continually evolving and as teachers we need to keep developing our skills and practice. To this end we have been involved in the Prince's Trust Schools' project since 2015 focussing on areas such as teacher subject specific training, KS2 to KS3 transition and developing understanding through practical work. The department is also benefitting from the Stimulating Physics Partnership with bespoke training being available for staff. As part of the Triple Science Support Programme Broughton Hall Science has access to resources and funding designed to increase uptake of the 3 separate science GCSE's a national target. Choosing the triple science elective will be challenging but very rewarding.

As with all departments science is also looking within itself for developments and improvements by sharing good practice via Triad teaching and learning groups and an openness to share ideas at department meetings which are regular within Broughton Hall.

Accommodation and Resources

The Science department is mainly based in 8 new purpose-built Labs with NAWIS gas and electric facilities. There are 3 science preparation rooms and a shared preparation area for use by teachers and technicians.

All laboratories benefit from Promethean interactive boards and 2 of these are apple enabled. The Science department also has access to 45 laptops for use solely within Science lessons, and two sets of interactive handsets. Practical equipment is well maintained by our experienced technicians and



covers most standard practicals and topics. Excellent technical support from our technicians has allowed Broughton Hall to respond quickly to the emphasis on required practicals and a practical endorsement at both KS4 and KS5.

Key Stage 3

Year 7 and 8 follow the Nelson Thornes Activate scheme which is fully resourced. Assessment is via tests at the end of each topic and an end of year exam. Assessment is again via end of topic tests and a SAT based exam and these assessments are used to give guidance on courses at KS4. Year 9 now begin their GCSE studies in Science.

Key Stage 4

Year 10 students all study for a GCSE qualification in AQA Trilogy Combined Science or AQA Separate Sciences.

In year 11 we offer a GCSE qualification in Additional Science and a third GCSE Further Science is also offered as an elective over the two years.

The successful completion of these courses leads to students pursuing level 3 courses in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Applied Science.

Key Stage 5

In years 12 and 13 students enjoy quality teaching and learning towards AQA A-levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and a Technical Vocational Qualification in Applied Science. Students studying A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics typically have grades AAB or better in GCSE qualifications in Science and Maths. Students with 2 GCSE C grade or better qualifications in Science and grade C in GCSE Maths will be offered a course leading to TVQ in Applied Science. Students who study A levels in science continue their studies at Further education level with the majority of students going on to science-based degrees in medicine, dentistry, radiography, chemical, civil and mechanical engineering, pharmacy and others at Universities that in 2017 included Oxford, Cambridge, Liverpool, Manchester, and Lancaster.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Intervention classes in Science are offered both after school and during lunch times to KS3/KS4 and KS5 students. There is also 'Science Wednesday's available to all year 10 and year 11 students on Wednesdays 3.15 – 4.15. KS3 students enjoy investigative work done within our STEM Club run at lunch time. There are also intervention and general preparation classes at KS5 in all subjects.

Numerous trips out add interest and enthusiasm to the science curriculum at Broughton Hall and recently there have been visits to Daresbury Laboratories for their 'Chemistry at work day', The Blood Transfusion Centre at Speke, the Blue Planet Aquarium, the Big Bang Event at Aintree, a Robotics Challenge Days at Liverpool University and Hugh Baird College, and an alien experience visit to Jodrell Bank.

