

## Science Department

In the Science Department at St Benet Biscop, we aim to give students an inspiring and engaging experience. Our curriculum is broad, balanced, ambitious, inclusive and relevant for the 21st century. We encourage, support and develop students to become life-long independent learners, whose emotional health and wellbeing, along with their academic and intellectual potential, will flourish.

There are currently 10 members of staff in the department which includes one Subject Leader for Science and two Assistant Subject Leaders. We have 1 full time highly experienced science technician. Where possible, we provide the opportunity for teachers to teach within their subject specialism and across all key stages.

The Science Department uses a range of formative and summative assessment methods to monitor student progress. Taught units are formally assessed termly to allow teaching staff to offer effective and targeted intervention and ensure all students make the progress we feel they are capable of.

### **KS3 (Years 7-9)**

Students study a bespoke Key Stage 3 Science programme which works alongside the National Curriculum so they can develop a full understanding of the subject before choosing their GCSEs. Our bespoke KS3 course is clearly divided into biology, chemistry and physics units and all students will follow a balanced curriculum. As well as developing our students' knowledge and understanding of scientific theory, our curriculum has an integrated working scientifically component and a clear focus on literacy, numeracy and communication that seeks to develop students' confidence in articulating their scientific ideas.

### **KS4 (Years 10-11)**

We offer AQA GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) to the vast majority of our students and the AQA separate sciences are available as an option subject chosen at the end of Year 9.

### **KS5**

We offer A level Biology, Chemistry and Physics and it is part of our commitment to the teachers within our department to help encourage them to develop their subject knowledge and skills to teach their subject specialism post 16.

### **Extra-Curricular**

We provide opportunities for students to extend their learning outside of the formal curriculum, including enrichment activities such as, Science Clubs and the chance to take part in Crest award activities e.g., 'Can you survive the zombie apocalypse?'. We bring in outside speakers and offer trips to Cern, the Centre for Life and Newcastle University and we are always looking for ways in which to further enrich and extend the learning of our students outside of school.