

The Science Department

CANDIDATE INFORMATION



THE SCHOOL

For centuries, The King's School has been committed to academic excellence. Our first mention as an educational institution dates back to 1327, but it was in 1528 that the school was re-founded by Bishop Foxe of Winchester and, since then, has gone on to provide an exemplary education to thousands of boys – one of which was Sir Isaac Newton!

Although we are incredibly proud of our heritage, we adopt a forward-thinking approach to education. We are keen to recruit and train our colleagues in order to provide the best possible opportunities for our students during their time in school and beyond.

We believe that a student's education extends further than their academic attainment, and we work to ensure that our boys are also equipped with tools to help them navigate adulthood, as well as the qualifications they need to succeed. As a Grammar School, we endeavour to enable our students to achieve the highest grades and enter the most competitively sought-after universities, careers and professions.

OUR AIMS

We aim to inspire intellectual curiosity, encourage a competitive spirit and develop creative thinking. We foster social responsibility and leadership skills within our students and a strong sense of community underpins everything we do. We value commitment, we celebrate success, and we offer an environment which not only leads to academic success but also to self-discovery and a sense of personal worth.

THE POST

We look forward to welcoming a successful candidate who will fit in well with our thriving and forward-thinking department. Our teaching methods are in line with the objectives established in the Person Specification and overall, we seek to facilitate the growth and progression of our employees as well as the children they teach.

THE DEPARTMENT

The Science Department is an important subject area within the school and is proving to be a successful group of subjects at GCSE and a popular set of choices for students at A level. All GCSE students study the three separate sciences, and at A level, approximately 25% of the students opt to study either Biology or Chemistry, and approximately 50% of the Y12 students start the Physics A level. In all instances our students enjoy exceptional examination outcomes.

Students in Year 7 receive 6 hours of Science teaching, and in Year 8, they receive 6 or 8 hours depending on whether they are double linguists or not. In Year 9, our students receive lessons in the separate sciences and either 8 or 9 lessons in a two-week cycle. We use the Activate course in years 7 and 8 and teach across the sciences. From year 9, we start our work on the GCSE courses using the OUP resources and primarily Kerboodle.

All Key Stage 4 students study the three separate science courses we teach, the AQA suite of courses, specification codes 8461, 8462, and 8463.

Alongside our timetabled lessons, we offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities with visits to the University of Warwick for both GCSE Science in Action and A level Physics in Action. We have visitors to the school for our annual Newton Lecture and from Oxford University to run workshops and talks about their Materials Science course. We also offer students the opportunity to participate in university competitions, such as the Cambridge Chemistry Competition, RSC Chemistry Competition and the British Physics Olympiad set of challenges.

We are fortunate to enjoy well-resourced facilities. The school has 9 full-size laboratories and 1 smaller laboratory suitable for some of our smaller groups. We also have three excellent technicians to help us prepare for practical lessons.

Innovative teaching methods and new ideas for the future development of our courses are always welcomed and encouraged. Our ideal candidate will contribute to this forward-thinking approach while embracing the rich traditions of Science at The King's School.

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING

The school aims to deliver outstanding lessons, inspire curiosity, and develop students' genuine interest in their subjects.

Every class is taught in a way to develop students' physical competence and to prepare students for their examinations. Ongoing assessment, both teacher and peer, is a key element of the department's approach and the use of both formative and summative assessments on a regular basis provides vital information. All members of the department are expected to use 'assessment for learning' strategies to inform their lesson preparation and teaching. The department assesses all work at Key Stage 3 using a

rubric adapted from the AQA GCSE PE practical assessment, allowing continuity across the Key Stages. This also allows us to identify gifted and talented students and provide additional support where needed.

Key Stages 4 and 5 are expected to complete set homework where appropriate. Feedback is carried out quickly and accurately and is based on examination criteria where appropriate

