

Science



The science department at the Gillford Centre has a purpose-built laboratory where pupils can explore and investigate a selection of biology, chemistry and physics topics. There is a focus on developing the student's ability to use investigative approaches, and to form conclusions from the results they achieve. They are given opportunities to use these skills to explore a variety of tasks in logical and scientific ways.

We hope that our pupils will gain confidence in their abilities through working in small groups, and enjoy learning about how science works and impacts everyday life.

KS3:

Key Stage 3 students follow a general science course, creating a solid foundation with plenty of opportunities for practical learning. The aim of our KS3 science curriculum is to encourage student's engagement and curiosity, and to promote confidence in their investigative skills. The concepts they learn, and the practical skills they develop, will help to prepare them for studying science at Key Stage 4.

From the spring term of year 9, students begin to follow the AQA GCSE Combined Science (Synergy). This is a double science GCSE course which is taught in two strands – 'Life and Environmental Sciences' and 'Physical Sciences'. The examinations will be sat at the end of year 11. Students will experience 'required practicals' during curriculum time and their knowledge of these will be tested in the terminal examinations.

KS4:

In years 10 and 11 students work towards achieving the AQA GCSE Combined Science (Synergy) qualification. This is a double GCSE which is divided into two sections – 'Life and Environmental Sciences' and 'Physical Sciences'.

The students will aim to achieve two GCSEs in Combined Sciences. Although these are examination based students will also experience 'required practicals' during curriculum time, and their knowledge of these will be tested in the terminal examinations.

The science GCSE courses develop student's analytical and practical skills, along with an understanding of the world around them – these are applicable to a huge range of careers and further education pathways.

