



This is an exciting time to be joining our Science Department. We are a team of 14 teachers and 3 full-time technicians, accommodated in 12 newly built laboratories. Our teaching staff are well-qualified, the subject leader for Science also leads Chemistry.

KS3

Currently, in years 7 and 8, Science is taught in mixed-ability tutor groups, year 7 follow the WIKID scheme and year 8 follow an in-house scheme based on the key principles of 'How Science Works'. For the first half of year 9, students are taught in broad sets, we have developed a scheme which provides the most appropriate grounding for KS4. We are well established in the use of APP with our KS3 classes, and have worked hard to produce meaningful assessment of our new year 7 students regarding life after levels.

KS4

We have embraced the many changes to the KS4 curriculum in Science and begin the teaching of the GCSE specifications in the second half of year 9. We are following the new Edexcel specifications in both combined and separate sciences. Students are selected for the different pathways dependent on their interest as well as their ability, and are taught in similar ability sets by subject specialists wherever possible.

Sixth Form

Sciences are popular in the sixth form, and classes are large. At Durham Johnston we follow the OCR specifications for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. We currently have 4 teaching groups for Chemistry and 3 groups for each of Physics and Biology in year 12. In year 13 there are 2 teaching groups for each of Biology and Physics and 3 groups for Chemistry, with a similar number expected next year. Our highly-motivated students work well and enjoy excellent working relationships with teachers. Our results are consistently of a very high standard, ranking us in the top few comprehensive schools nationally and many of our students go on to science-based courses at highly competitive universities.