



Parkside Academy

An Outstanding School

The Science Department

The Science Department is staffed by a team of 9 high quality teachers and a senior laboratory technician.

The department comprises 6 laboratories, a prep room and a science work/meeting room.

The department is well resourced. All teaching areas have a staff PC, interactive whiteboard and access to ICT suites and suites of iPads.

The department is built on a 3 key principles:

- Principle 1, is to ensure that we as staff do our very best to ensure that the students do their very best.
- Principle 2, all students should feel safe in science and have built up key skills in resilience. Our students will be willing to take risks in their learning and be able to acknowledge their own failings will often lead to greater success.
- Principle 3, all students should be inspired and value the importance of science. They should enjoy the subject and see how it will help them achieve success in their own future.

The Science department deliver a curriculum which aims to engage students' interests at every level by providing relevant, progressive and inspiring academic content as well as enrichment and practical opportunities allowing students to undertake scientific enquiry and learn about the scientific processes in a variety of real-life contexts. When students join Parkside in Year 7, they complete a transition unit to develop safe scientific investigation skills before embarking on a KS3 curriculum which is sequenced to develop and build on knowledge and skills from KS2. The science curriculum has been designed to ensure it is progressive in nature and builds throughout both KS3 and KS4 to ensure depth and breadth of knowledge.

In Year 9 students begin their GCSE studies studying the fundamental concepts of each science discipline to ensure they acquire a solid foundation which allow them to achieve success in their chosen pathway, either GCSE Combined Science or GCSE Separate Sciences. Formative and summative assessment is embedded throughout the KS3 and KS4, allowing misconceptions to be identified and addressed and to ensure the continued progression of students of all abilities.

The Science Department has an excellent record of working with students of all abilities to help them to achieve their potential. All members of the department work with enthusiasm and commitment and are willing to try out and evaluate new initiatives in order to achieve a varied and motivational learning experience for all Students.

Students are encouraged to sample Science in contexts other than their lessons. We coordinate a successful STEM club after school, at KS4 these students become our 'Experi-mentors' delivering engaging sessions to primary aged students and at external events. Students of all ages are encouraged to participate in science events at local universities, theatres and industrial parks.