

AYLESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT SEPTEMBER 2013



Aylesbury Grammar School has a thriving Science department. There are 13 laboratories of which four are specifically fitted out for Chemistry, five for Physics and four for Biology. We are also embarking on an exciting programme for the extension and development of our science facilities. The total numbers of students currently studying at A-level are at about 150 for each of the individual sciences at both AS and A2 years.

The AGS Physics, Chemistry and Biology Departments are currently staffed by a highly experienced and long-serving team of specialists and dedicated technicians. The Departments are extremely well-equipped with modern apparatus and equipment and student laptops as well as other ICT facilities.

The Departments work closely with each other producing a good mix of experience and youthful enthusiasm. There is a strong emphasis on practical work at all levels, supported by the technicians. Staff joining the department could expect to be teaching some GCSE and A level in their first year dependent on specialism, experience and preference. In addition there would be the opportunity to teach a range of Science at KS3. There is significant support available for all new teachers joining the school, whether experienced or NQT.

Separate sciences are taught at GCSE and above by specialist teachers. GCSE in all Sciences is taught from the beginning of Y9. General Science is taught at KS3 in Y7 & 8. We have completely revised the GCSE Schemes of Work over the last few years with the objective of providing as wide a range of teaching and learning strategies as possible. Since September 2009, GCSE Physics, Biology and Chemistry have been taught in four one hour lessons every two weeks. Class sizes are about 30 in Y7, 8 and 9 and approximately 23 in Y10 and 11 though some are considerably smaller to support students.

We have an exceptionally high uptake at AS and retention rates into A2 are extremely good. Schemes of Work have recently been re-developed to meet the new specification and significantly improve students' experimental skills. Since September 2009, A Level Physics, Biology and Chemistry have been taught in 9 one hour lessons every two weeks.

Students have been very successful in the British Olympiad Competitions and (as part of our Science Specialist status) we aim to improve on this. Students take part in other national competitions and events. We also provide a substantial amount of Science Outreach to primary schools as part of the Science Specialism. A contribution to our work as a Science specialist school would be most welcome.