



KING EDWARD VI
SCHOOL LICHFIELD

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

There are 14 specialist teaching staff in the department and three full-time science technicians. The Head of the Science Department is Dr Lee; working alongside, Mr Phillips (Head of Chemistry), Mr Mills (Head of Physics) and Ms Shaw, Key Stage 3 Coordinator. All staff teach largely within their specialisms from GCSE onwards and strong subject knowledge is a strength of the department.

There are 13 specialist science teaching rooms, with the addition of a new building with four Chemistry labs in 2021, bringing the department together in one part of our extensive school site. A further three laboratories are being refurbished over the summer holidays. All classrooms have an interactive whiteboard or panel to support interactive teaching. There is a new Prep Room plus a second Prep room and smaller storage rooms. Our able technician team support teaching staff with equipment and practical set up across the entire ability range and year groups in all three science subject areas.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum reflects the national changes and the department uses Activate to support learning throughout Key Stage 3. Students make the transition to GCSE during Year 9 and our curriculum provides additional time for those who take Triple Science. This is a popular pathway with students and each year 40-50% of our cohort started the new GCSE courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. 9-4 pass rates for Triple Science are close to 100% and are also strong in Combined Science. Our students follow the AQA Science course.

Science A levels are very popular options in the 6th Form. At A level we offer courses in AQA Biology, AQA Chemistry, and AQA Physics with 2-year linear courses. We run at least two groups in each subject and science subjects are an extremely popular choice. We also offer a Medical Science course post 16.

There are opportunities for all science students to stretch themselves further. For example, students have the opportunity to enter the British Physics Olympiad in Year 13 and the 'GCSE Physics Challenge' in Year 11. Students have been very successful in these with students attaining Gold awards in both and is now offered in Biology and Chemistry at KS5. In recent years, students have also had the chance to go to CERN and other opportunities for Physics, Biology and Medical Science for visits and activities beyond school. Many students continue with further education that includes Science and STEM related courses building on their experiences through KS3,4 & 5.