



SCIENCE AT WADDES DON

The Science team currently comprises thirteen members of teaching staff, all of whom are subject specialists, ably supported by three highly-skilled science technicians. Together, the teaching staff hold an impressive range of experience and expertise. Science is taught in eight laboratories, and there is an excellent preparation room.

We encourage a range of teaching styles in the department and are supportive in the sharing of resources and creative approaches. We believe that excellent Science teaching captures student imagination and deepens knowledge. To aid teacher preparation, a variety of software packages are regularly used across each key stage.

Extra-curricular clubs and opportunities include a Key Stage 3 Science Club and taking part in the Biology Olympiad. The department is very active, routinely running educational visits to Whipsnade Zoo, the Science Museum and GCSE/A Level 'Science Live' conferences plus other trips as they arise such as the Joint European Torus, CERN etc.

The laboratories are in very good condition, five having been refurbished recently to a very high specification. The eighth lab was added to the department suite due to the popularity of the sciences.

We use Activate schemes of work and resources at Key Stage 3 which fully embrace the school's mastery curriculum. Assessment and testing for tracking pupil progress in Key Stage 3 makes use of a combination of tests and prescribed investigations. At Key Stage 4 most students take Combined GCSE Science, with 30 students in each year studying for Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate GCSEs, following the AQA GCSE specifications. Curriculum time in science is good, and allows us to run a three-year Key Stage 4, with Year 9 as a skills and foundation year. In this year we develop students' understanding of energy pathways, and of equations and calculations such as magnification, giving students a solid foundation from which to build. A Levels are offered in Biology, Chemistry and Physics which are popular subjects in the school, all following the AQA syllabi. In addition to the traditional A level sciences we also offer a Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Science following the Cambridge OCR specification.

Results at GCSE have been strong over the past three years, with subject progress and attainment being significantly higher than the national average for the past two years. In 2024 the Value Added

for Science was +0.71 (no Value Added measures are reported by the DfE for 2025). The table below outlines the attainment and achievement of GCSE students in 2025:

Qualification Name	7-9%	5-9%	4-9%	Student Count
Biology GCSE	25	84	100	32
Chemistry GCSE	22	69	94	32
Physics GCSE	34	81	97	32
Combined Science	16	56	81	110

A Level results vary from year to year, and there is high demand for all three science subjects. Students achieve across the grade range and mostly achieve an ALPS grading of 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. Many students intend to study science-based courses at University.

The department has been very active in training, mentoring and developing ECTs, SCITT and PGCE students. We are committed to staff development and our department is one in which colleagues can thrive and develop professionally as part of a happy and hard-working team of highly-skilled subject specialists.

The school is looking to appoint an enthusiastic and knowledgeable Teacher of Chemistry who is looking for a position in a vibrant and supportive science department. The ideal candidate will be a strong advocate for the sciences as well as fostering a deeply held belief that teachers make a difference to young people through their positive relationships and excellent teaching.

Finally, the successful candidate will have a clear view of the joy and excitement engendered by good Science teachers and the desire to work at a school which prizes student development and the promotion of positive values at the heart of its day-to-day practice.

Matthew Abbott, Headteacher

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