

Science – Position Statement May 2024

The science department endeavour to make all lessons fun and engaging for all students. Our aim is to use the science curriculum to help students develop skills that can be used in different forms of employment or further education, as well as develop their independence and life skills.

Each year has a curriculum that links to employability, functional skills and real –life scenarios to help students develop their understanding and skills ready for the next chapter in their life whether that is in education or the world of work.

The science department have re-created the science curriculum to become more life based, it has more opportunities for cross curricular links and development of skills for employment, independence and communication. Each year group has a specialised curriculum of ‘science for life’ where it is adapted especially for the current cohort and their abilities. This new curriculum gives the theory and practice that students will need as they grow independent and become adults in the world of work and life skills in their homes and communities.

STEM

Since 2022 the science department has run an annual event known as the ‘STEM showcase’. Each year subjects get involved to create cross-curricular links in different activities during this event based on a theme, which pupils will complete during the STEM day. In science we encourage pupils to create their own STEM projects that are presented on the STEM day and entered for the competition. Pupils get to use their knowledge and skills to create a project linked to their interests and the rest of the school views the projects and will vote whose should receive an award. This showcase is a great success in terms of collaboration with subjects, developing both communication and interaction skills of the pupil as well as building their confidence and self-esteem.

The STEM showcases are growing each year with more activities in the day with external visitors coming into the school to lead activities with our pupils, for example, McClaren and CSI forensics.

Key strengths of the science department:

- Fun and engaging activities
- Follow practicals delivered in mainstream school
- Opportunity to create own projects, i.e. STEM showcase
- Links to life skills and life knowledge (cross-curricular)

Qualifications:

Students will complete AQA Science Entry Level (5960) during years 9 to 11, which will give the students the relevant theory needed if they are to complete Science based qualifications in the future. The course includes 6 different topics related to chemistry, physics and biology. Each topic has coursework and short end of topic exam that is completed within the classroom. The level achieved by the students will depend on the amount of points awarded during each assessment.

Any questions please contact Mrs Andreou-Dorey, Head of Science department