



CHEMISTRY

STAFF

Miss E Gledhill
Mrs S Griffin
Mrs J Houseman

Mrs B Moore

Mrs R Noble
Mrs R Pyrah
Mr G Stott
Mr J Walton
Mrs S Wood

SUPPORT

Staff are happy to discuss your work informally at mutually agreed times. Organised drop-ins are run throughout the year at lunchtime on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

INTRODUCTION

In the first couple of weeks of school we will be focusing on introducing and developing the skills which we consider essential if you are to develop into a successful chemistry student.

These are:

Numeracy skills – You will need to be able to rearrange equations to make different terms the subject of the equation, structure your calculations clearly explaining your working at each stage and present your answer in the appropriate form.

Practical skills – You need to be familiar with the use of standard laboratory apparatus, be able to take accurate and precise measurements and you will develop the skills and techniques needed for the award of a practical endorsement

Application skills – As a successful chemist you need to be able to write the formulae of a range of chemical compounds and be able to draw and recall a range of organic functional groups and structures

Study skills – You will be expected to use a variety of resources to support your studies and consolidate your learning including text books, revision guides and a range of online resources.

WHAT TO BRING FOR YOUR FIRST LESSON

In addition to the standard stationery needed for lessons you should have a scientific calculator. Safety equipment will all be provided for practical lessons however you may wish to purchase a lab coat for practical lessons. You should have a day-to-day folder to keep all your current notes for your subjects in as well.



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CLASSWORK, DIRECTED STUDY AND INDEPENDENT STUDY

You will find you have two teachers for your chemistry course. Lessons will include a variety of practical work (including required practical activities), theory lessons, lessons that focus on specific maths skills and consolidation activities at the end of topics.

For each topic you will be given a workbook and a question booklet containing consolidation questions and exam style questions. It is expected that you will complete all sections of this workbook as you go through the course and this will be checked by your class teachers.

Your Directed Study amounts to five hours of work a week including uplearn, retrieval questions, reading and other work – this may be completing sections from your workbook, exam style questions to consolidate your knowledge, worksheets, planning for a practical activity or topic coming up in future lessons.

In addition to homework, you should review each lesson's work to make sure you deepen your understanding of the work you have covered. This is essential to being a successful A-Level chemistry student. You will also need to keep your A-Level folders organised and up to date – this may include rewriting class notes, writing revision notes and summarising topics by drawing spider diagrams/concept maps etc.

RESOURCES

To aid you through the course you will get a workbook and a question booklet for each of the A-level topics you study. You will also be provided with a lab notebook in which you will write up all the practical work you do through the course including planning and research, observations, analysis and evaluation of your practical activities. You can also buy revision guides at a reduced price from the chemistry department. The school library has copies of textbooks and other helpful resources.

Before starting the course, you should familiarise yourself with the AQA Chemistry specification and particularly the subject content part of the specification. Focus on the content in sections 3.1.1 *Atomic Structure*, 3.1.3 *Bonding* and 3.1.2 *Amount of substance* which are the topics you will study at the beginning of the course.

There are some excellent websites that can help with revision of GCSE Chemistry content and help with the transition onto the A-Level course including – [Physics and Maths Tutor](#) (Lots of chemistry stuff on here as well!), [S-cool](#), [GCSE Bitesize](#), Knockhardy [GCSE](#) and [A-Level resources](#), [Chemguide](#), [Chemrevise A-Level Chemistry](#)

These resources and information will help you prepare for the start of your A-Level chemistry course.