Science

Teacher in Charge: Mrs Colebrook

Examination Board: WJEC

Overview of Science pathways

All students study Science as part of their level 2 pathways. None of the Science pathways occupy an option column, meaning that whichever Science pathway you follow all of the other options are still available to you. In each course students will study a mixture of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There are 3 pathways to select from:
Double Award Science, Double Award Applied Science and Separate Science.

Double Award Science

Overview of course content

In Double Award Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics are studied as 3 separate subjects but the course leads to an award of 2 GCSEs in science. In year 10 students will study core topics including cells, respiration, water and electricity.

Summary of assessment

Double Award Science is examined with 3 exams at the end of year 10, one each in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. A further 3 exams are sat at the end of year 11. Each exam accounts for 15% of the qualification, so it is 90% exam based. Students will also complete a practical assessment (10%) in year 11. Grades are awarded as a double grade from A*A* down.

Learning Pathways post 16

Students who are successful in Double Award Science at higher level will be eligible to study A level in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Alternatively they can also follow level 3 courses in Medical Science or Forensic Science.

Who is this course most suitable for?

This course is suitable for students who want to keep their options open in Science post 16 and who don't mind studying for exams.

Double Award Applied Science

Overview of course content

In Double Award Applied Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics are all studied but in an applied context. The course leads to 2 GCSEs in science. The core content in year 10 is the same as the core content of Double Award Science.

Summary of assessment

Double Award Applied Science is examined with 2 exams at the end of year 10, and one at the end of year 11. One of the year 10 exams contains a pre-release which students will study in class with their teachers ahead of the exam. The exams in total make up 70% of the overall qualification. Students will also complete a non-examination assessment (20%) and a practical assessment (10%) in year 11. Grades are awarded as a double grade from A*A* down.

Learning Pathways post 16

Students who are successful in Double Award Applied Science will be eligible to study level 3 courses in Medical Science or Forensic Science.

Who is this course most suitable for?

This course is most suitable for learners who are sure that they will not want to study a Science subject at A level. In particular it is a good course for students who would prefer coursework to exams.

Separate Science

Overview of course content

In separate science Biology, Chemistry and Physics are studied as 3 separate subjects and this course leads to 3 GCSEs. In year 10 the core topics are still studied along with extra content and in some cases additional topics.

Summary of assessment

Separate Science is examined with 3 exams at the end of year 10, one each in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These exams are longer and cover more content than the double award exams. A further 3 exams are sat at the end of year 11. Each exam accounts for 15% of the qualification, so it is 90% exam based. Students will also complete a practical assessment (10%) in year 11. Grades are awarded as a single grade in each subject from A* down.

Learning Pathways post 16

Students who are successful in Separate Science at the higher level will be eligible to study an A level in the subject they are successful in. Alternatively they can also follow level 3 courses in Medical Science or Forensic Science.

Who is this course most suitable for?

This course is most suitable for students who are very interested in pursuing a scientific career and who know that they want to study a science at A level. The pace of the lessons in separate science is usually much faster than on the other pathways because of the extra content and there is more to learn for the exams. You can expect to do more independent work out of the classroom if you follow this pathway.