

## The Science Department at Wootton Academy Trust

At Wootton Academy Trust (WAT), we are passionate about inspiring the next generation of scientific thinkers, innovators, and leaders. Our Science Department plays a key role in our ambitious vision to provide outstanding education, blending academic excellence with innovative teaching methods. We are proud to be part of the Wootton Upper School achieving Good in all areas in its recent Ofsted inspection (November 2024). Our focus is not only on achieving strong academic results but on fostering a genuine curiosity and love for science among our students, driven by our bespoke **Big Ideas curriculum**.

### Innovative Teaching, Inspiring Future Scientists

Our bespoke **Big Ideas curriculum** takes a dynamic approach to science education, ensuring that learning is both deep and engaging. The curriculum is carefully structured to support students in achieving mastery through **knowledge-rich learning** and **purposeful practice**, ensuring they develop a deep understanding of scientific principles as they progress through Year 9 to A-Level. This approach is complemented by our commitment to **research-informed resources and lesson design**, which ensures that teaching methods are not only effective but also innovative. This enables our staff to consistently deliver lessons that are both intellectually rigorous and exciting for our students.

### A Thriving STEM Community

Our Science Department at WAT is home to a vibrant and highly dedicated team of sixteen subject specialists across Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Science is not only popular but a driving force in our curriculum, with a significant number of students continuing their studies in these subjects through to Year 13. At both **Wootton Upper School** triple science is popular choice at GCSE and at **Kimberley 16-19 STEM College**, we have either three or four A level classes in each year group for each of the science subjects.

Our staff are passionate about science education, and many teach at both Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College, moving between both sites. This allows for greater continuity and collaboration between the schools, enriching the learning experience for all students.

### Opportunities for All

Science enrichment is a key feature of our STEM provision, and students have access to exciting opportunities, such as trips to **CERN**, scientific competitions, and other hands-on experiences. These activities inspire students to engage with science in a real-world context and help develop a passion for exploration and discovery.

We are proud of our science facilities. At Wootton Upper School, our eight modern laboratories and prep room are designed to enhance the learning experience. At Kimberley College, students benefit from four specialist laboratories and two open learning spaces, all equipped to support advanced scientific learning.

### Science for All, Success for All

At WAT, science is for everyone. In **Year 9**, students experience six hours of science each fortnight, ensuring a solid foundation in all three sciences. From **Year 10 onwards**, up to a third of pupils opt for the more challenging **Triple Science** route, with the remaining studying Combined Science.

The triple pupils benefit from a more in-depth approach, with five additional hours of science lessons per fortnight.

At the **sixth form** level, we offer **A-Level Biology**, **A-Level Chemistry**, and **A-Level Physics**, with each subject allocated eleven periods every two weeks. Our A-level outcomes are consistently strong, with progress measures in line with national expectations, and our students regularly achieve excellent results that open doors to top universities and careers in STEM fields.

### **A Department that Invests in People**

We value our staff as our greatest asset, and career development is at the heart of everything we do. Our science teachers benefit from continuous professional development, with a structure of **TLR holders** leading in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology at A level, as well as a **Lead Practitioner** who supports the Head of Science across the Trust. We take great pride in offering opportunities for internal promotions, ensuring that our staff feel supported and motivated to achieve their personal and professional goals.

### **Join Us**

If you're passionate about science and want to be part of an innovative, forward-thinking department that values both academic excellence and creativity in teaching, we would love to hear from you. For more information or to arrange a visit to the Science Department, please contact [recruitment@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@wootton.beds.sch.uk).

Together, we are **shaping the future of science education**, fostering curiosity, and empowering students to achieve their fullest potential!