

Science at Riverside

Introduction

At Riverside, our small groups are supported by specialist teachers and teaching assistants. This enables pupils to engage in science practical work in a safe and secure way, only participating when they feel ready. Lessons are carefully structured to highlight misconceptions, or fill in missing gaps in prior learning before progressing further through the curriculum. Pupils gain confidence in their scientific knowledge with individual encouragement and feedback.

Home-learning is encouraged and supported. This enables pupils to catch-up if they have missed previous schooling and to reinforce the new concepts taught. Pupils are provided with a personal revision guide to take home, and they have access to on-line resources.

The Curriculum

Science KS3

‘Start early, finish strong’

When the AQA science curriculum gets started in KS3, our sights are already set beyond GCSE. We introduce science skills and concepts early, building naturally to more complex ideas and approaches – while assessing progress at every stage. Logical, linear and comprehensively supported, AQA science is accessible for all. The subject areas of Physics, Chemistry and Biology are taught through a 2 year scheme of work and includes practical experiments and written tasks combined with end of unit tests

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/ks3/ks3-science-syllabus>

KS4 Science for first examination in 2018 and onwards

Science has something to offer every student, whatever their aspirations. From trainee chef to nuclear physicist, construction apprentice to cancer researcher, everyone needs some level of relevant science understanding.

Pupils follow AQA GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy). This is worth two GCSEs. Pupils are awarded a double grade from 9-9 to 1-1.

There are six exams, each 1 hour 15 minutes long: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. All exams are terminal (at the end of Y11).

There are 21 required practical activities to be completed or observed in class.

There is no coursework. There will be practical questions in the exams based on the 21 required practicals.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>

In addition to a revision guide pupils are set tasks on GCSE Pod which can be accessed from any internet enabled device.

<https://www.gcsepod.com/what-is-gcsepod/>

How to do well in Science

- Keep your attendance up and catch-up missed work
- Use your revision guide weekly, not just near exams
- Learn the new key words and meanings introduced each lesson
- Memorise the physics equations and practice rearranging them
- Make mistakes and learn from them
- Look out for science stories on TV or in newspapers

KS4 Science last examination in 2017 (outgoing syllabus)

Our current Year 11 pupils are studying AQA Science A.

This is worth one GCSE. You are awarded a single grade from A* - G.

There are three exams, each one-hour long: one Biology, one Chemistry, one Physics. All exams are terminal (at the end of Y11).

There is one 'Individual Skills Assessment' worth 25%. This is practical coursework and must be completed in class by April in Y11.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/science-a-4405>

Alternative Provision in Science

Pupils who are unable to work towards GCSE Science may be entered for AQA Entry Level Certificate Science.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/elc/science-5960>

Pupils who have almost finished a science course at their previous provision will be given individual learning tasks and one-to one support to complete their current qualification.