**Applied Science**

A vocational qualification that gives learners a practical introduction to science.

**What you study**

Applied Science is an exciting opportunity for students to study all three sciences through a more vocational approach. Topics covered include applied experimental techniques and science in the modern world, undertaking a scientific investigation and optional units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Studying this qualification enables students to develop their knowledge and understanding of scientific principles, as well as those scientific practical skills recognised by higher education institutions and employers to be most important. The qualification also offers students an opportunity to develop transferable skills such as problem-solving, research and communication as part of their applied learning.

A mixture of internal and external assessments means students can apply their knowledge in a practical way.

**How you study**

The fundamental philosophy of Applied Science is that, in order to understand the nature of science, students must actively experience the science environment. The units that are examined will combine traditional whole class teaching, individual and whole group research activities as well as practical investigations. Units that are assessed by portfolio work will be delivered primarily through developing investigative skills and students are expected to complete a full written investigation of the work carried out. A draft portfolio is marked by the teacher and returned with guidelines on how to improve to achieve a students’ target grade.

**Department strengths and resources**

The course is delivered by three specialist science teachers. Each will deliver content that will be assessed through examination and portfolio. Lessons will be delivered with a focus on developing practical skills and learning through investigation. We use a wide range of specialist sixth form equipment to further develop practical skills. We prepare students thoroughly for the exam units and additional support is always provided to ensure students achieve their full potential in the portfolio units.

**Progression to university and work**

This course is ideal for those who wish to progress to higher education and/or pursue a career in the applied science sector. The qualification is supported by a range of universities, and taken alongside other qualifications. It can fulfil the entry requirements for a number of science-related higher education courses, including Biomedical, Forensic and Sports Science, as well as Nursing.

**Our recent successes**

Students have been successful in gaining university places in Microbiology, Adult Nursing and Sports Coaching.

**GCSE entrance requirements**

This course is suited to double science or separate science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) students who have achieved grade 4.

The course also requires sound mathematical ability.