



SHREWSBURY
HOUSE SCHOOL

SCIENCE



Our mission statement in the Science Department is ‘Making science have real meaning for tomorrow.’

Science plays an increasingly important part in modern life, and so, its study is a vital part of educating young people. We take for granted cars, planes, television, computers and mobile phones. Not much more than a hundred years ago, these would have seemed the products of fantasy. In the Biological Sciences, the dramatic improvement in medicine has seen human life expectancy almost double in comparison with the 1600s. Chemistry is moving us towards cleaner and more environmentally friendly provision of fuel and energy usage. The use of nanotechnology promises further developments which may seem just as implausible today as TV might have done to Victorian society.

What are our aims in the Science Department?

- to stimulate curiosity, interest and enjoyment of Science through acquiring a systematic body of scientific knowledge, recognising connections between different areas of Science;
- to enable boys to use scientific ideas and models to explain phenomena and events, and to understand applications of Science, creating an awareness of the impact of developments in technology on the environment and in other contexts;
- to develop experimental and investigative abilities safely, establishing an ability to evaluate and communicate scientific evidence, while understanding the importance of experimental data in supporting scientific ideas.

The Department arranges various Science clubs and visitors to the school as well as undertaking visits to talks, exhibitions and quizzes.

Curriculum and Delivery

Boys in Years 3 and 4 are taught in the junior Science laboratory where they are introduced to all of the key ideas underpinning their science learning throughout their education. These individual topics are delivered entwined with learning and developing key scientific investigation skills.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) lessons is currently provided for Year 4 boys alongside core science lessons. In these lessons, they develop their teamwork and problem-solving skills, evaluating their prototypes, and learning through trial and error. This is a key skill enabling boys to face real-life problems with more creativity, critical thinking and effectiveness.

Thereafter, the boys move into the senior Science laboratories. The highlight of their year in Chemistry is gaining their Bunsen burner licence. Notable learning in Physics is the topic of ‘Space and our Planet within the Solar System.’

Our Upper Middle Year Groups and Senior Years all follow the ISEB 13+ curriculum working on a topic basis within the three distinct sciences. We do this deliberately and report on the elements clearly, rewarding achievement in the separate sciences. We realise that boys have different strengths and affinities within these three sciences and we use this separation to help build confidence.

We love to take science out the classroom as well. Year 8 venture out to conduct an ecology study of the local area, including gathering data and considering human impacts.

Mrs L Ross BA (Hons), QTS

Head of Science

Please note that the above subject information has been produced in good faith and is correct as of September 2020. We reserve the right to make changes to the curriculum and whilst we will endeavour to offer any trips and competitions mentioned above, we cannot guarantee that they will always take place every year.