

Key Stage 3 Science at Ricards Lodge High School follows a curriculum that is accessible to all, academically demanding and builds on the skills and knowledge that your daughter developed during Key Stage 2. Students will experience stimulating and interactive lessons that focus on "How Science Works" and follow the Oxford Activate (1,2,3) Programme of Study, which is in line with recent national changes. Students enjoy using the exceptional range of resources and equipment that the Ricards Lodge Science Department has to offer, including a set of brand new laptops for students to use in lessons.

Key Stage 4 allows the students a choice of subjects. Ricards Lodge offers the options of allowing individuals to choose the most appropriate course. In line with recent educational reform, the courses offered will be GCSE Combined Sciences (9-1) and Separate Science (9-1) which is for the most academically gifted in the school. Currently the entry requirements for Triple Science are Level 7c by the end of Year 9 in Science and Level 6a in Mathematics and English; this is likely to be the same for Combined Sciences (9-1).

BTEC Health and Social Care is a course that is for those who enjoy working with continual coursework; recently an examined unit has been introduced.

Key Stage 5 is well represented in RR6. Biology, Psychology and Chemistry are taught at Ricards Lodge, whilst Physics is currently taught at Rutlish School (our partner school in RR6). Our entry requirements are more robust than many other Sixth form establishments: two Grade Bs at GCSE Science as well as English and Maths. Health and Social Care Level 3 BTEC and Applied Science Level 3 BTEC are also very popular courses at key Stage 5.

In Key Stage 3 each student will have 6 hours of lesson time across the two week timetable. In Key Stage 4 she will receive 5 hours per subject and in Key Stage 5 nine hours per subject. Students are assessed formally each term and the results are carefully tracked to check that the appropriate levels of progress are being met. Interventions strategies are available for those students who have found aspects of the curriculum challenging.

Course Content

Key Stage Three and Four courses all contain aspects of Biology, Physics and Chemistry. There are also elements of Psychology and Geology within those areas that allow students a small taste of the exciting nature of those subjects that they can choose in the Sixth Form.

Resources

The Department has an enviable collection of resources that all have their part to play in enhancing Learning and Teaching. We have just invested in the latest Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 textbooks and software. Students are able to purchase their own copy of the textbooks, details are available from all Science teachers. The most appropriate websites are SAM Learning, BBC Bitesize and OCR for GCSE

Homework

All students are set homework in line with the policy. The homework may take various forms: Individual research in preparation for a presentation, worksheets and past papers are just some of the methods that we use to allow students to extend their own learning outside of the classroom.

Parents

The key to success in anything is to take an interest in it. Parents can ask about the work that their daughters' learnt in science and suggest appropriate television programs or books that delve deeper into those topics. Students should have an organized and supervised time and place for doing homework. Parents should check that the correct books and equipment are packed into their school bags and that revision materials are invested into. The students who achieve the best are well organized and have all the appropriate materials needed and also take pride in the work that they are doing in science.