

Woodkirk High Specialist Science School Science Department

Staffing

Science is the largest department in the school and there are 19 well qualified teachers, supported by 5 excellent technicians.

Accommodation and Facilities

There are 13 well equipped laboratories, one of which has a dedicated microcomputer suite. All laboratories have active boards and the department has two class sets of laptops.

Key Stage 3

Presently pupils follow the Exploring Science scheme in years 8 and 9. Year 7 pupils follow a new scheme written by the department.

Year 7 pupils are set on entry, pupils being placed in 2 or 3 bands.

Years 8+ 9 pupils are set within in two half year groups.

Each class is usually taught by one teacher, sometimes classes are shared.

From September 2010 pupils will complete KS3 in two years, following the new scheme being written by the department.

Key Stage 4

Woodkirk offers AQA modular examination courses at KS4 and the majority of pupils follow courses leading to two GCSE's in science. Most pupils will do Core Science in year 10 followed by Additional Science or Additional Applied science in year 11. Some pupils do Double Applied Science in years 10 and 11. Separate Sciences are offered to those students with a particular interest and ability in science.

From September 2010 pupils will start KS4 courses in year 9 and the pupils will follow either the 'red' or the 'vocational' pathway.

In the 'red' pathway pupils will do the separate sciences in years 9 and 10. In year 11 they will follow different courses depending on their previous progress. The year 11 courses will include, AS levels in the separate sciences, GCSE astronomy, GCSE additional applied science and extended projects.

In the 'vocational' pathway some pupils will do Btec applied science in years 9, 10 and 11. Some pupils will complete the Btec in years 9 and 10. In year 11 these pupils will follow different courses depending on their previous progress including: Level 3 wider key skills and GCSE additional applied science.

KS5

Applied Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics are offered at AS and A level, and they are popular options. The Chemistry department follows the Salter's scheme and the Applied science, Biology and Physics departments follow the AQA schemes. The science department also contributes to the Btec Health and Social Care course run by the Social Science department.

Enrichment activities

There are regular revision and extra study sessions after the school day.

Science club and Eco club meet regularly and both have an enthusiastic membership. The enrichment co-coordinator has organized several events and trips and Woodkirk has recently become a leading school in space education.

Since 2005 there have been regular science summer schools during which pupils have participated in a variety of science activities and also built and done maintenance work on an eco-garden.