



SCIENCE AT PARK VALE ACADEMY

Thank you for your interest in Park Vale Academy. I hope this overview will give you an insight into the department as a whole. The successful candidate will join a developing team with a vast amount of collective skill and experience. This reflects the effort and talent of the department as a whole.

Staffing

The Science Department at Park Vale Academy consists of nine members of staff including a Department Director, Second in Science and two Laboratory Technicians. The Science team range from highly experienced teachers, some with other responsibilities in the Academy, to a newly qualified teacher. The team are hard-working, very friendly and supportive of each other, and have high aspirations of students.

Accommodation

This consists of six new laboratories and a classroom that are fully equipped and maintained to deliver the variety of courses outlined below. Two rooms currently have large widescreen HD display screens and the others have interactive whiteboards. The laboratories are well serviced by two full-time laboratory technicians.

Curriculum

Key Stage 3

In Years 7 and 8 pupils have three periods of Science per week and are taught the OUP "Activate Science" course.

Key Stage 4

From Year 9 students follow the AQA Combined Science (Trilogy) or complete the option of studying Triple Science courses. Results at GCSE have traditionally been good when compared to other subjects and the department is highly regarded in the Academy

Additional Support for Students

Teaching Assistants are used to support some students with learning difficulties in Science lessons during Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

In Years 10 and 11, where possible, such students work in small size sets allowing more individual help and attention.

Teaching and Learning Approaches

Staff are encouraged to employ a variety of teaching and learning activities in order to motivate students, maintain their interest and encourage them to achieve their full potential. There are plenty of CPD opportunities in school, through the Trust and organised by the Science Learning Partnership. The department has just completed a series of sessions organised by the Institute of Physics. Emphasis is placed on practical investigative work by students whenever possible (either individually or in small groups). Other teaching approaches used take into account the age and ability of students as well as the nature of the topic material, and include project work, role play, team teaching, teacher demonstration and whole class teaching. Some members of the department are taking a leading role in developing new teaching and learning approaches.

Professional Development

We regard ourselves as a friendly, supportive and forward thinking department that consistently seeks to 'move people on', no matter where they are in their careers.

We are committed to reflective practices that seek to bring the best out of all of us.

David Stockwell
Head of Science, Park Vale Academy