

Sixth Form Courses

BTEC Applied Science

Why take this subject?

The Edexcel BTEC Applied Science course will allow you to study how science is applied in many different types of professions and industries. The focus of the course is scientific usage, concentrating on how scientists and others use science in their work. During the course you will be given the opportunity to visit scientific workplaces and meet people who use science on a daily basis. You will also learn how science contributes to our lifestyle and the environment in which we live. The course is designed to allow you to spend a considerable amount of your time in the laboratory, working on the kind of practical projects that may be undertaken by employees working in science-based industries.

Key aspects of the course include:

- following a programme of learning which is practically-based and which improves your practical skills;
- following a balanced science programme covering biology, chemistry and physics;
- visiting scientific workplaces;
- working independently on a number of projects;
- learning about the work of different types of people using science and the scientific skills that they use;
- developing ideas about employment opportunities in science;
- preparing you for courses in higher and further education;
- developing skills to track your progress and achievement throughout the course by a programme of continuous assessment.

As well as using ICT for presenting your work, you will also be encouraged to use ICT for researching information, monitoring and recording experimental work.

What do I need to have studied at GCSE?

Students will have a minimum of one grade 5 in Science with effort and homework consistently at 2 or above. English and Maths at grade 5, with homework consistently at 2 or above.

How will I learn?

As with other courses and subjects, we will use a number of techniques to help you learn. Some will involve a formal teaching situation where you will be given, or be expected to take, notes. You will be expected to develop research skills and techniques where you will find out for yourself either by using books or the Internet. You may be asked to use local businesses and organisations as sources of information. You will be expected to undertake a substantial amount of practical scientific work either as part of a group or by working independently. You should remember that in order to obtain the higher marks in your portfolio work, it is important that you are able to demonstrate independence in your work, be able to use your findings in order to make accurate conclusions and be able to evaluate the effectiveness of your practical work and research.

How will I be examined?

The qualification is assessed by assignment and by examination. To produce good portfolio work, candidates are encouraged to provide clear and accurate evidence which demonstrates their knowledge and understanding.

What super curricular opportunities will be available to me?

There will be plenty of extra curricular opportunities – from guest speakers to lectures, trips and visits and contact with relevant employers.

What can this subject lead to?

There is an extremely wide variety of employment opportunities for those interested in science. Career options range from a vast choice of medical opportunities through to employment in conservation and environmental projects. Those who study science can also, for example, go on to work as electronic or mechanical engineers, dieticians, technicians and research scientists. In fact science-based careers form one of the largest employment areas in the UK. In fact, an estimated 30,000 extra scientists will be required in the UK by 2020.