

OCR A-Level Chemistry

Raising Standard Leader – Dr Clare Francis

Department Information

The study of A level Chemistry with our experienced and well qualified Chemistry teachers begins with an introduction to the wide-ranging practical applications of Chemistry. Our well-resourced department allows all lessons to be conducted in laboratories using specialist, technical equipment for the practical endorsement component of the course. All students are issued with a course text on entry to the department and are expected to make regular use of the Pixl strategies provided to support and enhance their progress.

Why study this course?

Chemistry underpins the world around us, so being able to study chemistry is like learning why the world is how it is. Chemistry fits well with the other science A-levels and Mathematics, and is usually the required A level for most medical science courses at University, particularly Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. You will be able to gain a range of skills from problem solving, team work, practical and mathematical which will help you in any chosen career.

Aims of the course

To develop logical thinking and resilient learners that can facilitate the advances of Chemistry in all applications of our rapidly expanding world.

Course outline

Content is split into six teaching modules:

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry	Module 4 – Core organic chemistry
Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry	Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements
Module 3 – Periodic table and energy	Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis

How am I assessed?

Progress is monitored by regular 6-week tests and assessed homework plus Pixl support lessons to be completed outside of the laboratory in student's personal study periods.

There are 3 exams at the end of the course:

- Periodic Table, elements and physical chemistry - 100 marks 2hr 15min written exam assessing content of modules 1, 2, 3, 5 37% of full A-level
- Synthesis and analytical techniques - 100 marks 2hr 15min written exam assessing content of modules 1, 2, 4, 6 37% of full A-level
- Unified chemistry - 70 marks 1hr 30min written exam assessing content of modules 1-6 26% of full A-level
- Practical endorsement in chemistry (not examined)

Where does this course lead?

Choosing Chemistry as a career path can lead into the pharmaceutical, food, plastics, engineering, metals, geological and manufacturing industries. The skills developed throughout the course are a good grounding for many other professions.