



## **GRAVESEND GRAMMAR SCHOOL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

We aim to provide an engaging and challenging environment in which all of our students are encouraged to be confident, enquiring, independent and interested learners ready to face the challenges of an increasingly technological world.

Making a successful appointment will give the school 14 Science specialist teachers, working in six refurbished and well equipped laboratories and with additional access to a range of ICT. A Head of Science leads the faculty supported by Subject Leaders and a Key Stage three co-ordinator.

We are privileged in the school to teach able students who have a positive attitude towards learning Science, particularly emphasising a 'hands-on' problem solving approach. All students study a bespoke KS3 science course in Years 7 and 8. In Years 9-11 the students are setted and complete the (Edexcel) Biology, Chemistry and Physics 9-1 GCSEs. Currently all but one set are entered for separate science GCSEs with subject specialists teaching them in each discipline. We have adapted our approach in KS3 and KS4 to allow for the increased demand of the reformed GCSEs, increasing emphasis on assessment whilst maintaining a well-resourced practical approach. Our GCSE results are very strong.

Teachers in Science are a mixture of youth and experience. This, therefore, presents an exciting opportunity to have a significant influence in moving Science in the School forward. Teachers within the department tend to be fluent users of ICT and much of the teaching in science is outstanding. Results at all levels are good but the department is always focused on finding scope to push for improvement. There will be plenty of opportunity to contribute to developments that will improve student performance: for example, the approach to teaching practical skills and experimental technique, assessment policy, improving scientific communication, developing problem solving and enquiry based learning.

Gravesend Grammar School provides a positive atmosphere where learning can flourish and where your teaching can develop. This is also a great opportunity to lead a significant contribution to an improved results profile for the School as a whole. The department, senior leaders and school are very supportive of staff and their professional development. The candidate will be encouraged to gain from the experience of others and utilise and develop their skills in delivering the curriculum through a range of teaching and learning styles, sharing experience and bringing greater creativity and innovation to the team where possible. The candidate should also have the subject knowledge, interpersonal skills and enthusiasm to ensure that there is sufficient vigour and rigour in the teaching of Science.

The work of the teachers in the department is currently supported by two full-time technicians. The department is very well resourced and we believe strongly in science being a practical, investigative and problem-solving based subject.

## **A Level at Gravesend Grammar School**

In Gravesend Grammar School we work with students who are both very capable and enthusiastic about studying sciences beyond GCSE. Numbers in all sciences at A-level are very healthy, with most students opting for at least one science beyond GCSE. Currently we have three year 12 groups in both Biology and Physics and two in Chemistry. The science staff have a vast wealth of expertise in their subjects providing students with a rich experience at A level. We are always keen to add to this knowledge and develop new teaching strategies and approaches. Many of our students go on to study related courses at degree level. A-level Examination Boards are Edexcel for Biology and Chemistry and AQA for Physics.

A-level students currently have nine hours per fortnight of timetabled lessons, with the large majority being taught in specialist, well equipped laboratories with good ICT access. Each class at A-level is shared between two specialist teachers. There is a rigorous approach to assessment and monitoring of individual progress to ensure individual students are challenged to achieve their full potential. Expectations of student performance are high and specific help is targeted at individuals and groups where required.

*September 2018*