



## **GRAVESEND GRAMMAR SCHOOL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

We aim to provide an enjoyable, practical and challenging environment where all our students are encouraged to be confident, enquiring, independent and interested learners ready to take the opportunities provided in an increasingly technological world.

Making a successful appointment will give the school 13 full time subject specialist teachers in Science, working primarily in laboratories and with additional access to ICT suites. A Head of Science leads the faculty supported by subject leaders for Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and a Key Stage three co-ordinator.

All students study a bespoke KS3 science course in Years 7 and 8. In Year 9 the students are setted and study the separate Edexcel Biology, Chemistry and Physics 9-1 GCSEs. In year 11 all but the bottom set are entered for the separate science GCSEs. We have a well-developed and integrated approach to assessment which helps us to achieve excellent GCSE results. The department is well resourced and we encourage the use of practical work wherever appropriate.

Numbers in all sciences at A-level are healthy, with Biology being a particularly popular choice (over 60 year 12 students) and good numbers moving on to study science related degree courses. Students in the school have a very positive attitude towards science and particularly enjoy a 'hands-on' problem solving approach. A-level Examination Boards are Edexcel for Biology and Chemistry and AQA for Physics.

Teachers in Science are a mixture of youth and experience with a wealth of subject expertise. 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. There will be plenty of opportunity to contribute to developments that will improve student performance, for example, in practical skills and experimental technique, assessment for learning, student voice, problem solving and modelling.

The candidate should be prepared to work closely with colleagues to utilise and develop their subject knowledge and teaching skills in delivering the curriculum, where possible bringing greater creativity and innovation to the team. The candidate should also have the enthusiasm and leadership skills 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 three full time technicians. The department is very well resourced and we believe strongly in science being a practical, investigative and problem solving based subject.

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.

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

At Gravesend Grammar School we are privileged to work with students who are both very capable and enthusiastic about studying Biology and in a well-resourced department. All our students study the full two year A level course. The Biology course aims to promote a very detailed knowledge and rigorous understanding of the subject. We also endeavour to share enthusiasm and engage students in their learning by following a practical investigating approach to drive learning.

We aim to build on the foundations from GCSE and promote learning through a rigorous problem solving approach, comprehensive subject knowledge and the exceptional relationships we build with students. We follow a practical approach to teaching and learning with a view to developing understanding through investigation and promoting practical competence which students can continue to hone as they complete the more challenging A-level course. The aim is always to give students first-hand experience of procedures and practical techniques wherever possible.

### **Students currently study the Edexcel A-level Biology specification**

A-level students currently have nine hours per fortnight of timetabled lessons, with the large majority being taught in laboratories. There is also good access to ICT. There are currently three Biology groups in both Year 12 and Year 13, with each group having two specialist Biology teachers.

The department is high achieving and forward thinking. There is a rigorous assessment for learning policy in place within the department to ensure individual students are challenged to achieve their full potential and that their progress is monitored carefully. Expectations of student performance are high and specific help is targeted at individuals and groups where required.