



The Science Department at Becket Keys Church of England School

The team

We currently have eleven Science teachers supported by two technicians, ranging from the very experienced to those in the early stages of their careers. Becket Keys Church of England School has been named the best school in Brentwood by the Sunday Times and the second-best school in Essex. We are also ranked as the fourth-best school in East Anglia. The Science team have contributed to this by being a high performing and high achieving department with exceptional GCSE results year after year. Our triple students achieved an average 54% at grade 7-9 across all 3 Sciences, with our combined students achieving 80% grade 9-4. The department also has a thriving A Level offering and is the largest KS5 department in the school. Last year we achieved our best grades to date: 13% of all science grades were A* to A.

Teaching area

Science lessons are delivered across eight fully equipped laboratories (including two air-conditioned labs which are soon to be completely refurbished). All labs are well equipped for the delivery of the sciences across the key stages. All rooms have their own interactive whiteboard, supply of glassware, heating apparatus and more. We are equipped with a plethora of specialist equipment that assist in a curriculum driven by demonstrations and practical activities.

Curriculum, Assessment & Student Groupings

Science is taught in mixed ability groups at KS3 with groups set by ability at KS4. Students follow a five-year science curriculum. From Year 10, each class has a specialist Biology, Chemistry and Physics teacher. At KS3, students have 8 lessons a fortnight and at KS4 students have 4 lessons a fortnight in each Science. All Russell Education Trust (RET) schools use the same examination board for Science (AQA) to allow us to share schemes of work (SOW) and resources. At KS3 students follow a programme of study based on the AQA Big Ideas model. All students are taught to high level following an engaging curriculum at KS3 which prepares them for studying GCSE Science with the opportunity to study triple Science. Our SOW integrates the new approach to KS4 right from the start of Year 7, with a particular emphasis on the practical SOW. As a result, our entire curriculum utilises a practical approach to teaching Science, allowing for rapid progress and high engagement across all year groups. Assessment also fits in with the new Science curriculum, with a strong emphasis on assessment of practical skills mixed with end of term tests on content.





At KS5, we offer courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics with the OCR A exam board. We aim to use more than the minimum required practical activities over the two years at A-Level in order to give students a wide-ranging experience to take into their exams. We currently have two Biology classes, one Chemistry class and one Physics class in Year 13, with one of each class in Year 12. The sciences continue to be a highly popular choice at A Level.

We are constantly reviewing resources from our respective exam boards in order to keep abreast of updates and changes, particularly to the required practicals.

Professional Development

We take our CPD seriously, as all of us can develop our generic and subject-specific expertise. A wealth of experience within the department mean that meetings focus on sharing ideas, jointly planning lessons, moderating assessments and generally making ourselves better at teaching Science. We benefit from work scrutiny, learning walks, and longer observations by RET advisors and our senior team, which help us focus on what works well and where we need to adjust our practice. The RET Science network provides opportunities for Trust-wide training, and collaboration with Science departments in four other RET schools.