



## Department: Chemistry

### Sixth Form Information Event 2021 FAQs

#### **How is chemistry A-level examined?**

The course is assessed purely through 3 written examinations at the end of year 13. The first two papers roughly split the course in half and are worth 35% of the total marks. The third paper is worth the remaining 30% of the marks and mainly consists of practical and multiple-choice questions.

#### **Is there any coursework?**

Chemistry is a practical subject however there is no coursework, instead this content will be assessed and graded through the written examinations only. At the end of the two-year course students will receive a separate endorsement of their practical skills, taken alongside their A-level exams.

#### **What grade do I need to get at GCSE to study chemistry at A-level?**

There are no grade requirements for studying chemistry at A-level. However, students who achieve less than a grade 7 at GCSE tend to struggle with the significant demands of the course. The majority of students who go on to achieve A\* and A grades at A-level had little difficulty with the GCSE, achieving grades 8/9.

#### **What teachers would I have?**

All teachers in the chemistry department currently teach the A-level and have years of experience of pushing students to fulfil their potential in the subject. Each year of study you would have two teachers, one teaching the organic side of the course and one teaching the physical side of the course.

#### **Does it matter if I'm not doing Maths A-level?**

Whilst not essential, students who take Physics or Maths as well as Chemistry tend to do particularly well, whilst students without this combination find the significant mathematical aspects of the course challenging. Whilst extra support would be provided, it is important to recognise the extra commitment that would be required to develop your maths skills.



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### ***How much homework will I get?***

On average you will receive 1-2 hours of structured homework a week, however this in no way represents all the work expected outside of lessons. At A-level there is more responsibility on the student to reflect on their own learning and ensure they master the content. Reviewing, rewriting and adding to your notes alongside completing past paper questions will need to become part of your working routine.

### ***What careers can chemistry A-level lead on to?***

Chemistry underlies many branches of technology such as metallurgy, fuel, textiles and chemical engineering to name but a few. Chemistry also enters into every manufacturing industry as well as medicine and agriculture. Knowledge of chemistry is also helpful in the building industry when considering materials and their structures. The chemical industry, together with its associated industries, is a major source of employment.