Science Curriculum Overview 2025/26

Context:

Students have 2 science lessons every week. In the first lesson, students follow a curriculum tailored to both cover the KS3 science national curriculum and prepare students for moving on to GCSE science. Students learn through a combination of theory and practical work.

In the second lesson we learn functional skills and horticulture. Functional skills lessons involve learning skills which support students in their learning. This involves graph skills, research and presentation skills. We also do project work based on students' interests.

In horticulture, students grow plants and learn how to care for them and the environment around them. Students also do interesting projects such as raising tadpoles and butterflies. We work with the RHS and have the RHS Garden Award Level 4. Horticulture has been shown to have a positive impact on mental health and is a useful life skill.

Intent:

KS3 science is ordered to give students a taste of different areas of science that best meets the needs of our students and prepare them for GCSE. The order is subject to change depending on the particular needs and interests of our students.

Assessment:

Students are assessed informally throughout the year at the beginning and end of each lesson and topic.

KS3 Science Overview Map

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Science	**Physics 1:** **Energy**	**Chemistry 1:** **Chemical Reactions**	**Biology 1:** **Life Processes**	**Physics 2:** **Forces**	**Chemistry 2:** **Periodic Table**	**Biology 2:** **Ecology**
Functional Skills	**Graphs**	**Organising a Christmas Fayre**	**Individual Presentation skills**	**Graphs**	**Group Presentation Skills**	**Organising a Summer Fayre**
Project	**Horticulture** **Preparing for Winter**	**Space** **Planets, Solar System, The Universe**	**Natural History** **Geology, fossils, dinosaurs and Evolution, Climate Change**	**Horticulture** **Spring planting and propagating**	**Horticulture** **Maintaining a garden and looking after nature**	**Horticulture** **Growing and using produce**

Biology		**Chemistry**		**Physics**	
Life Processes	**Ecology**	**Chemical Reactions**	**Periodic Table**	**Energy**	**Paper 2 Topics**
Cells Living Processes Respiration Photosynthesis Plant Biology	Classification Variation and adaptations Interdependence and Competition Sampling Ecosystems	Reactivity series Extracting metals Exothermic and endothermic Acids and metals pH scale & Neutralisation	Periodic table Metals and Non-metals Atoms, compounds and mixtures Groups 1, 7 and 0	Types of Energy Energy Transfers Waves Electromagnetic spectrum Electricity National Grid Power Stations	Types of forces Balanced and unbalanced forces Stopping distances Magnets