

Chemistry

A-Level

Overview

Chemistry at Queen's is a vibrant mix of 'hands on' experiments, state-of-the-art technology and experienced and enthusiastic teaching. All the dedicated staff in the department work hard to make Chemistry exciting and rewarding by using a great variety of stimulating activities in teaching and learning.

Why Study?

As a Chemistry student, you will undertake significant experimental work. Test tubes and Bunsen burners, colours, smells, bangs and bubbles are part of Chemistry as much now as ever. These activities are enhanced by regular use of specialist computer software, both in the lab and in the computer room, data-logging equipment, LCD projectors, an interactive whiteboard, and molecular models. The teaching style promotes independent learning and the development of study skills which provides an excellent platform from which to go on to University.

Course Overview

You will follow the AQA Chemistry course and do a lot of experimental work that gets you thinking. The emphasis is on being able to handle concepts and problem solving rather than remembering lots of facts. Although you will not need to be A Level Mathematicians to cope, you will need to be able to think logically and carefully. Some Chemists are surprised by the amount of calculations you have to do which typically relate to practical contexts and involve rearranging equations, using ratios and keeping track of units and significant figures.





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Progression

Each year several of the A grade Chemists gain places at Oxbridge and many read Medicine or Veterinary Science there and elsewhere. Degree courses chosen can be as diverse as Law, Languages and Archaeology as well as those that expect A grade Chemistry such as Medicine, Chemical Engineering or Biochemistry; a comprehensive careers support programme is in place for students wishing to move into medical fields.

Head of Department: Tim Jolliff

Email: tpj@queenscollege.org.uk

