A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

INTRODUCTION

Chemistry has been described as 'The Central Science': it has clear links with biology and with physics and most of our students studying it at A level will be studying one of the other sciences, although this is by no means compulsory. Chemistry at A level is a practically based course and you will be encouraged to learn chemical concepts through careful experimentation. Chemistry is the study of materials at a molecular level: you will have opportunities to learn about the properties of everyday materials and even make some of them. You will also learn about the energy changes involved in chemical reactions: why fuels produce energy and how explosions occur. Another feature of the course will be a study of industrial chemistry and in particular how chemists are working to mitigate the effects of global warming.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Chemistry at A level is an essential requirement for some courses at college or university. The list includes Medicine, Dentistry, Forensic and Veterinary Science as well as courses in Chemistry, Biochemistry and Engineering. It should not, however, just be seen as a stepping stone to such scientifically oriented careers; the skills which the course seeks to develop such as problem solving and logical thought are equally applicable to many career options which have no root in science, for example law and accountancy.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It is generally expected that students will have gained at least a grade C at GCSE (in either chemistry or in core and additional science), preferably a B. Although no minimum level of mathematical competence is specified, students should be aware that the subject does have a mathematical content and ability to use a calculator is definitely an advantage!

YEAR 1 AS

The Year 12 course covers the key concepts of Chemistry such as reacting quantities and atomic structure. Environmental issues and the development of "Green" Chemistry is also strongly emphasised. The year is divided into 3 units and will be assessed by 2 written papers and a minimum of 3 practical based coursework activities assessment.

YEAR 2 A2

Building on the work of Year 12, the A2 course looks at chemistry in more detail with reference to practical and industrial applications. 3 A2 units are again assessed by 2 written papers and practical assessment.

For further details contact Mr S Chandler or Mr P Chapman

Science