

Academic Requirements

In general, we would prefer A level students to have achieved A*, A or B Grades at GCSE either in Dual Award Science or in Chemistry. Our experience suggests that high A level grades tend to be achieved by those students who gain A/A* grades at GCSE. Several units of the course include a considerable number of calculations and it is therefore important for intending students to have a firm grasp of mathematics. Algebra is particularly helpful, but the mathematical demands do not exceed those of GCSE.

Course Specification: OCR Chemistry (H434)

The three Advanced Subsidiary units covered in Lower Sixth are:

- (i) **Atoms, Bonds and Groups** (Mole calculations, atomic structure, bonding and the periodic table)
- (ii) **Chains, Energy and Resources** (Basic concepts in Organic Chemistry, hydrocarbons, alcohols, haloalkanes, organic analysis, energy and resources)
- (iii) **Practical Skills 1** (Internal assessment of key chemical skills, including evaluation)

The three A2 units, covered in Upper Sixth, comprise:

- (i) **Rings, Polymers and Analysis** (Aromatic compounds, amines, acids, polymers, organic synthesis and analysis)
- (ii) **Equilibrium, Energetics and Elements** (Reaction rates, equilibrium, pH, energy changes and transition elements)
- (iii) **Practical Skills 2** (As for AS level but within the context of A2 study)

Why Chemistry?

The subject at A level is more concerned with the understanding and application of a limited number of basic concepts than with learning facts. It will appeal to students who have an inquiring mind who enjoy problem-solving and who can think clearly and logically.

Students choose Chemistry for a number of reasons. Some may plan to study Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Chemical Engineering or Food Science for which the subject is essential. Chemistry combines well with Biology, Physics and Mathematics since there are common areas between the subjects so that one can provide useful support for the other. Other students successfully combine Chemistry with contrasting subjects such as English, Music or a Language.

A Student's Perspective

'Chemistry is a fascinating subject to take if slightly tricky at first. Spending that extra time out of class clarifying your knowledge will make it even more rewarding.'