



# CHEMISTRY

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Specification:** [Click here for more information](#)

## COURSE SUMMARY

Chemistry is a fascinating science, which attempts to answer questions about how things happen from the sub-microscopic to bulk level. Using Chemistry, people have been able to improve our lives through developing new materials, investigating the causes of disease and helping to feed an expanding world population. The world needs chemists in the future to continue this work.



## WHY STUDY CHEMISTRY?

Chemistry is a really interesting subject because it can be applied to real life scenarios and helps to understand the world around you. It develops your problem solving skills as well as encouraging you to question why things happen. In class, students enjoy carrying out experiments independently. *Nadia*

*"When I leave school I hope to study Medicine at King's College, London with the aim of working in geriatrics. I have studied Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics."* Emilia

Practical work is embedded throughout the course and students must complete 12 required practical tasks. A pass or fail grading for practical skills is awarded. Assessment of practical skills is through questions in the exams at the end of the course.

## MIGHT LEAD TO...

Chemistry is one of the most desirable and flexible A Levels, because it is so challenging, academic and rigorous; it is therefore highly valued by universities and employers. For some courses and careers, for example human and veterinary medicine, Chemistry is all but essential. It can also lead directly to many courses and careers in healthcare such as pharmacy and dentistry, biological sciences, physics, mathematics, pharmacology and analytical chemistry.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

In the Chemistry theory lessons students learn to understand the principles; this is augmented through practical sessions where the theory is put into action. Learning is through various techniques, but the focus is always on the individual understanding of the concept. The teachers are approachable and this is important as they are always available when you need to ask for help. *Emilia*

## COURSE ASSESSMENT

Students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13. AS Levels will still exist and can be taken as a stand-alone qualification at the end of Year 12, but students taking this option and then continuing to study the subject in Year 13 would have to sit all the A Level units as linear exams to gain that qualification.

## ADVICE ON ENTRY

Students choosing science in the Sixth Form are advised that the assessment style associated with A Level qualifications means that if you achieve less than a B in GCSE Science or GCSE Chemistry you are generally unlikely to secure a pass in the A Level Chemistry exam. Students who are keen to study science at an advanced level and achieved a C in GCSE, are advised to follow the BTEC in Applied Science course, where the assessment style is continuous rather than through final exams. The success rate on the course for students with this entry profile is very high.

## READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [BBC – Chemistry 16+](#)
- [chemguide](#)
- [chemmybear](#)
- [Knockhardy \(PowerPoints\)](#)
- [RSC ChemNet](#)