
TEACHER OF SCIENCE – DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

The Post

We are looking for a well-qualified and enthusiastic teacher of science who can specialise in a science discipline. Science is a popular and high achieving department, with 3-4 groups at both A2 and AS level and 60 students each year taking Triple science at GCSE. We are looking for a teacher who has the potential and ambition to be outstanding, and who can inspire and challenge students to achieve the highest levels. This post is suited towards an NQT or an experienced teacher, and the successful applicant may have the opportunity to teach a science at A level.

The Department

The Science department currently includes 19 teachers plus 3 technicians. The leadership structure of the department includes:

- Head of Department – Leadership and oversight across the department and leadership of KS4.
- 2i/c – Leadership of provision and progress and KS3.
- Heads of Physics, Chemistry and Biology – Lead their specialism at KS5 and Triple Award.
- Teacher in charge of Applied Science – Leads Applied Science at KS5.

Each of the science subjects is currently taught by teachers who are specialists in their own subject. Of the 19 teachers in the department, 5 are specialists in Physics, 6 in Chemistry and 8 in Biology.

In addition, the vibrant department gives all teachers the opportunity and support to take a lead in areas of interest contributing to their own professional development.

The department is based in its own purpose-designed building, opened in 1994, which includes 10 modern laboratories, 2 large preparation areas and a staff work room. The department also has access to two more laboratories which are situated in the main school building. All laboratories have a teacher PC linked either to a Prowise interactive board.

Science is a highly successful department that is characterised by strong team work and excellent relationships. Everyone contributes to the work of the department by developing resources and materials that make up our schemes of work. There is a supportive, collegiate atmosphere and a wealth of ideas and experience that are shared, both formally and informally, with each other.

As part of our Teaching School Alliance and the establishment of our SCITT, Manchester Nexus, which operates out of Blue Coat School, the department also supports the development of aspiring science teachers through the ITE programme.

Curriculum

In Key Stage 3 pupils follow our own in-house schemes of work. We believe strongly that experimental skills are the bedrock of effective science teaching and the programme of study is practically based, allowing pupils to fully develop their investigative skills. Students are in sets according to ability.

At Key Stage 4 we teach both Combined and Triple Sciences. Students are advised about which course is best for them is based on prior achievement at KS3. On average approximately 60 students follow the

Triple Award pathway each year. We follow the AQA specification, using the Trilogy route for Combined Science. Teachers are able to specialise in one (or more) subject(s) at KS4.

We have an oversubscribed 6th form with over 400 students. All science A-level courses are thriving. We offer OCR Chemistry and AQA Biology, Physics and Applied Science.

Science in the School

Blue Coat was a specialist college for science. Although specialisms have now gone, this remains central to our curriculum design and approach to teaching and learning. A culture of investigation, enquiry, curiosity, the proper use of evidence and conceptual thinking is one we are seeking to develop and embed across the school.

Blue Coat's reputation for excellence in science is now established. Of the 80 - 90 students who join the sixth form annually in Year 12, the overwhelming majority will be applying for science A-levels. Within our Teaching School Alliance, we work with exam boards, STEM leaders and universities to provide a range of development opportunities for both students and teachers.
