

Chemistry



at RHB Sixth Form

Chemistry is a *fascinating* subject that studies matter and the changes it undergoes. Often described as the “*central science*”, chemistry bridges *biology* and *physics* while standing as a *distinct discipline* with its own concepts, principles and applications. It has led to *significant breakthroughs*, such as the discovery of new medical drugs and the development of plastics and lithium-ion batteries, *revolutionising* the modern world. Chemical researchers play a vital role in tackling global challenges including *human health*, *climate change* and *sustainable energy*.

“Studying chemistry in sixth form is like seeing the world from another angle. Once you understand one topic in chemistry you realise that they are all linked and make sense together.”

RHB ALUMNA

COURSE OUTLINE

Chemistry will expand your thinking and help you develop sophisticated models of some abstract processes and structures. It will train you to sort and analyse data, communicating the outcomes using appropriate scientific language. This is a tremendously valuable skill which is well regarded no matter what course of study is pursued beyond A Level.

The AQA Chemistry A Level is studied in three main branches:

Physical Chemistry – the understanding of how chemistry works.

Organic Chemistry – the study of compounds containing carbon (the chemistry of life).

Inorganic Chemistry – the study of the elements and patterns in the Periodic Table.

The course is assessed as follows:

Paper 1	(35%) 2 hours
Paper 2	(35%) 2 hours
Paper 3	(30%) 2 hours

IS THIS THE RIGHT COURSE FOR ME?

A Level Chemistry is a challenging and rewarding course of study, which requires absolute commitment. The calculations aspect of the course requires a good Mathematical grounding from GCSE.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE TAKE ME?

Further Education

RHB Chemistry students have gone on to top universities to study courses including Biochemistry at Kings College London, Medicine at Oxford and University of Exeter and Biomedical Science at UWE and York University.

Careers

Chemists are highly valued scientists, providing expertise in the fields of medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, dentistry, chemical engineering, polymer science, materials science and many other disciplines. For all of these employment areas advanced higher education training is required.

ENRICHMENT

There are many opportunities to get involved in additional activities. Why not help with the KS3 Science Club or offer to mentor a younger student in their studies? There are opportunities to extend knowledge and skills by competing in the RSC Chemistry Olympiad (in Years 12 and 13) as well as taking part in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge in Year 12. We also synthesise aspirin during the course and then take this to Bath University to analyse your product using their state-of-the-art spectroscopy machines.

For potential dentists, and vets we run a Medical Society for you to meet, discuss and debate the requirements of these careers. We often have visiting speakers who may present their research or may talk about careers such as Pharmacy to interested students. Many students subscribe to Chemistry Review for extra reading.

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Sinead Duigan

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