



## Science Faculty Information

The Science Team at The Ridgeway School is made up of a group of highly committed, innovative and creative professionals. There are 9 full time and 2 part time teachers, a Science Specialist Status Administrator, a Science Teaching Assistant and a dedicated team of 4 technicians. The team is housed in 10 laboratories and 4 prep rooms which are undergoing a programme of refurbishment. All staff have laptops, and each laboratory has white board and projector facilities.

Results in all Key Stages are above the national average and we continue to improve using rigorous target setting and monitoring to ensure progress. GCSE results in 2011 were the best ever, with 81% achieving at least 2 A\*-C science grades and 26% achieving at least one A\*/A grade. In addition, over half the sixth form take an 'A' level Science.

All teachers are specialists who teach all sciences across the age and ability range up to and including A' level. The Key Stage 3 course is currently based on Exploring Science which is condensed to incorporate modules on themed projects throughout years 7, 8 and 9. Science has strong links with our feeder primary schools organised by our own Science Primary Liaison Specialist. The Transition Programme is delivered in Year 6 and Year 7 and all science teachers are expected to make reciprocal visits to the primary schools. Other links with the community include working closely with The Science Museum, Wroughton and STEM Ambassadors to motivate interest in Science and Engineering beyond school.

Towards the end of Year 9 all Key Stage 4 students GCSE students commence the most appropriate pathway for them, the majority studying Triple Science but we also have groups for Gateway Core and Additional Science, Applied Science or BTEC Applied Science Introductory.

Biology (OCR), Chemistry (OCR), Physics (OCR) and Environmental Studies (AQA) are all offered at AS/A2 in the sixth form. Many of our A level Scientists continue to degree level science courses and each year sees students going on to study Medicine and Engineering as well as pure Biology, Physics and Chemistry courses. Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College, London and many other Russell group universities count ex Ridgeway students amongst their number as well as a variety of other universities. Students in the sixth form are well supported in their UCAS applications to enable them to make the right choice for tertiary study.

We have developed strong links with outside agencies and regularly make visits to Oxford University, Bristol University, Bristol Zoo, The Royal Society and Appleton- Rutherford Laboratories in order to enhance our 'A' level teaching and widen student experiences.

Science Specialist Status has enabled us to take part in a range of competitions, run master classes and conferences for our students and teachers as well as those in other schools, to host "The Swindon Primary Science Festival" and to develop international links including a very successful environmental project. "The Green Team" is active around school and in the community. GAT students can be seen taking a trip to "Oxford Museum of Natural History" to investigate Darwin or Art in Science and the Astronomy Club have their eyes on the stars!



There is a strong tradition of CPD for teaching and support staff and the team is fully committed to ITT which is run in conjunction with SCITT (Bath) and Bristol University. NQTs are fully supported and as with all staff in the team, are enabled to develop their skills and make a positive contribution to both the science team and the school.

Ellen Travers

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Science at

The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College

