

Ribblesdale High School Science Department Profile

Our science department is a highly effective and ambitious team. With 11 members of staff, we benefit from a range of experiences and specialisms. Being a Microsoft Training Academy means we are at the cutting edge of the use of technology in the classroom and are always exploring opportunities to improve our teaching through more 21st century methods – every day is a learning day for pupils and staff! We actively encourage and exploit 21st century teaching technologies and have an active 'Microsoft Innovator in Education' (MIE) within the department.

Our science lessons are taught in a purpose built science building containing six fully equipped laboratories, three of which have been recently refurbished. In addition to this, the building also houses a computer room and large preparation area. There are also three laboratories with their own preparation room in an adjacent building.

All teachers have their own Microsoft Surface device which links directly to the whiteboard. There is also a greenhouse, nearby pond, wild area and an observatory, allowing the pupils more hands on experience of physics, chemistry and biology. All these facilities mean that lessons are engaging and promote pupil progress because teachers are able to cater fully to the needs of their pupils and excite pupils about science with the correct equipment.

Key Stage 3

We teach our Key Stage 3 pupils for three periods/hours per week. Our pupils enjoy and benefit from a high degree of practical input and we always make sure lesson activities are differentiated to meet the needs of all our pupils.

In Years 7 and 8 pupils follow an integrated science course containing modules based on the National Curriculum. There are detailed and well-resourced schemes for each key stage and year group. As a school, we use Doddle (www.doddlelearn.co.uk) and other online testing to formatively assess throughout the year at Key Stage 3. Pupils are set in Year 7, based on Key Stage 2 data and their progress is carefully monitored using both summative and formative assessments.

In Year 9 pupils complete their Key Stage 3 studies by the end of the January, after which they begin their GCSE course.

Key Stage 4

Our Key Stage 4 pupils follow a programme of study suited to their ability and aspirations.

In Year 10 the more able pupils continue with the AQA separate science courses. They complete the external examinations for chemistry and physics in Year 11 and biology in Year 10.

The remaining pupils complete the AQA Trilogy Science course sitting all terminal exams in Year 11.

As a team, we constantly strive to deliver the curriculum in engaging ways and push our pupils to surpass their potential. We frequently collaborate and share best practice across the team and whole school level. There is a full and varied programme of bespoke CPD for all staff including a well-established NQT development structure. Ribblesdale is also part of a wider East Lancashire teaching alliance and training network locally and also nationally as a member of PiXL schools (<http://pixl.org.uk/>). Our results are evidence of our commitment and passion for our subject, not to mention the motivation and support we provide for our pupils. The team work collaboratively and support one another to achieve success; the ultimate goal.