



Church of England School
Executive Head and CEO: Dr Hilary Macaulay

9th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 8 Science Overview

We are writing to give you an overview of Science in Year 8 to help you support your child's learning and progress.

Monitoring the Progress of your child

Science in Year 8 is taught in mixed ability groups and all students will be taught the same topics throughout the year. Each student will be placed onto a 'pathway' depending on their KS2 data, spelling/reading age and progress in Year 7 (support, core or extension pathway). Each student will be given a tracking sheet at the start of Year 8 which will be kept in their exercise books. Students are expected to RAG rate their performance after each topic using specific criteria e.g. knowledge of the topic, ability to apply their knowledge, data handling, practical skills and literacy. Students should also record their test percentage after each assessment. Teachers will complete termly tracking data based on your child's attitude to learning in lessons and achievement on each assessment. This data will be available to parents towards the end of each term.

Our KS3 Curriculum

Our key stage three curriculum is designed to build a foundation of key scientific knowledge and understanding, as well as the development of key practical skills. Our Science curriculum has clear links to the school's curriculum intent of **Learning, Loving and Living** and there are frequent opportunities in our Science curriculum for students to develop in **Learning, Loving and Living**. We introduce Science to students in a fun and engaging manner, allowing students to learn through doing. We have developed a broad range of topics to engage students in the three key areas of science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This allows our students to consider how things work, the importance of the Earth's resources for a sustainable future, why things happen, how things change and how to carry out investigations. Our students are given opportunities to ask scientific questions, carry out investigations and research, create models and analyse and evaluate their findings.

Our Year 7 and 8 curriculum is designed to enthuse students and to develop the skills required to make them successful at GCSE, including maths and literacy skills, independent learning, practical skills and collaboration. There are termly ISA (Investigative Skills Assessments) which allow students to plan their own investigations, carry them out, record and analyse their results and evaluate key skills required to become successful and competent scientists. Students are assessed regularly, with a focus on the recall of key scientific knowledge, understanding of processes, application of knowledge and understanding and linking scientific phenomena to other areas of the curriculum and the world of work. Students are all expected to be a key part of their learning journey and are given time to reflect on their progress after each assessment to reflect on where they did well and what they need to do to make improvements. An overview of the 7 year Science curriculum can be found on the school's website: [LINK](#)

Topics and Assessments

Students will study all three sciences across the year, with a termly overarching theme. Students will have at least 3 assessments per term: either 'end of topic tests' based on the 'science content' in the topics or a test based on an extended investigation that students carry out (mini ISA). The table below gives an overview of the topics and assessments in Year 8 for Science. More details of our Year 8 Programme of study can be found on the school website: [LINK](#)

Each topic test is 30 minutes long and is split into 3 sections:

- Section A: 10 multiple choice questions (10 marks)
- Section B: short answer questions based focussing on knowledge of the content and experiments carried out during the topic. (14 marks)
- Section C: a longer question (6 marks)

Each mini ISA will comprise questions based on the extended practical that students carried out. It will assess them on their knowledge of variables, writing a method, evaluating an experiment and analysing data.

Students will be given a 'revision sheet' for each topic to help them revise. Copies of these will also be placed onto the KS3 Science TEAMS room (students can access this using their school email) and will be set for homework on Arbor.

After each test, students will be given an opportunity to reflect on their performance and think about what improvements they can make.

Term	Termly theme	Topic	Assessment
Autumn term	Science all around us	Chemical Reactions	End of unit test
		Electricity and Magnetism	End of unit test
		Health and Lifestyle	End of unit test
		The Earth	End of unit test
Spring term	Changes	Energy	Mini ISA and End of unit test
		Acids and Alkalis	End of unit test
		Key Processes and Ecosystems	End of unit test
Summer term	How things work	Motion and Pressure	End of unit test
		Adaptation and Inheritance	End of unit test
		Metals and their Reactions	End of unit test including mini ISA assessment

COVID and Practical Work

We are very eager to ensure that despite the current situation students will be able to complete practical activities in Science. Our priority must be the safety of our staff and students and as such, we have ensured that we follow current CLEAPSS and Government guidelines with respect to COVID. Whilst this means that certain practicals are unable to take place, most practical activities will still be possible in Science. Students will be expected to follow guidelines set out by staff during practical tasks to ensure their safety.

Behaviour: rewards and sanctions

Students who display excellent behaviour, effort, achievement or progress will be rewarded in a number of ways including, being given housepoints, stickers, certificates or receiving positive phone calls home. Each term teachers nominate students for the 'student of the term' award. Winners will be presented with certificates in assembly.

Students are expected to follow the school behaviour policy. Students who cause disruption to lessons, fail to hand in homework or do not follow the health and safety guidelines may be placed onto a green science report. Students will be set targets and their teacher will monitor them against these targets for a period of up to 6 lessons. If students fail their targets, they will be placed onto an orange report, where they will be monitored by the KS3 Science Coordinator. Students who fail their orange report will be placed onto red science report and this will be monitored by the Head of Faculty. Parents will be informed if students are placed onto science report.

Supporting your child at home

Parents can support their children at home in a number of ways:

- Ask questions, in everyday situations around the home e.g. how do you think that works?
- Work with your child to find answers to these questions using resources such as books, library, the internet
- Discuss any scientific news or TV programs with your child
- Ask your child to tell you about science they have done at school
- Show an interest in your child's science homework and check Arbor regularly
- Talk about the animals or plants you see in the garden or park
- Visit science based exhibitions, museums or zoological parks

Yours sincerely,

Mrs N Jeffries
Head of Science
njeffries@bishopramsey.school

Dr N. McGeady
Deputy Head of Science and KS3 Co-ordinator
nmcgeady@bishopramsey.school

Miss S Nelson
Deputy Head of Science and KS3 Co-ordinator
snelson@bishopramsey.school