



Midhurst Rother College

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Chemistry

Exam Board: OCR

Contact teacher: Mr M Neville

Why study Chemistry?

Everything is made of chemicals. The A level Chemistry course enables students to understand how many of the more common chemicals that we come across every day; from fertilizers to bleaches and from fuels to the chemicals that make up living organisms. Chemistry is the central science in that it supports both biology and physics. The study of Chemistry at A level is an excellent foundation for any science course at university. The subject leads to a host of career opportunities such as agricultural chemistry, chemical engineering, cosmetic science, dentistry, fuel technology, medicine, nuclear engineering, pharmacy, plastics technology, photography and veterinary medicine.

Course details

AS level

Unit 1: Atoms, bonds and groups

Unit 2: Chains, energy and resources

Unit 3: Practical skills

A2 level

Unit 4: Rings, polymers and analysis

Unit 5: Equilibria, energetics and elements

Unit 6: Practical skills

How is the course taught and assessed?

The OCR specification has been tailored to follow on from GCSE, and will develop your knowledge and understanding of the subject. The concepts of How Science Works, introduced at GCSE, are further developed. Practical work is integral to the teaching of theory and is internally assessed in Units 3 and 6. There are written examinations in January (Unit 1 for AS and Unit 4 for A2) and June (Unit 2 for AS and Unit 5 for A2).

You will be encouraged to read widely in order to broaden your grasp of chemistry and to appreciate the sociological, economic and environmental implications of advances in the subject. The course involves a great deal of practical work so it is important that you enjoy this aspect of the study of the subject.

Entry requirements

Students are expected to have achieved 6 GCSEs at grade C or above, including English as well as GCSE Triple Science or Core Science, Additional Science and Mathematics all at grade B or above. Chemistry at this level does involve some mathematics, particularly at A2, so you should be prepared to develop your mathematics skills throughout the course.

What are the progression routes with this qualification?

A level Chemistry is a compulsory course requirement for students intending to study the medical, veterinary or dental sciences, biochemistry and chemistry. In addition, most biological and environmental courses require a solid Alevel pass (Above a C grade).

What extra work can I do?

Students wishing to be successful in this subject will need to read around course and ensure that the reading of periodicals such as Chemistry Review and New Scientist are recommended.