

Science Department

King Ethelbert School is an 11 – 18 mixed, non selective school with 850 students on roll, situated in the lovely seaside resort of Birchington.

The school is part of a federation with Dane Court Grammar School in Broadstairs. In the 6th Form, we run the International Baccalaureate Careers Related Programme (IBCP) which offers a unique balance between level 3 practical / vocational study, academic rigour and global and cultural diversity. The school has been part of a special pilot to introduce this qualification worldwide and King Ethelbert is now an authorised IB World School, with Thanet becoming a world focus for the IB organisation.

The department currently comprises a Head of Department, a second in charge of Science and seven others who teach across the age and ability range, with a science lab technician supporting the department.

Students are banded according to ability at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, except for our 2019 mixed ability year 7 cohort. Currently at Key Stage 3 students follow a question based scheme of work adapted from the “activate” programme of study in years 7 and 8 and practical work forms an integral part of this, promoting students’ investigation and problem solving skills. We provide a bespoke scheme of work for early year 9 to better prepare students for the rigour of GCSE and look to begin the Key stage 4 curriculum from term 4 of year 9 onwards. At Key Stage 4 most students follow the new AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy.

The Science Department additionally runs level 3 BTEC Applied Science at Key Stage 5 as part of the IBCP. IB Biology also runs in Key Stage 5.

In the past two years, the Science Department has gone from strength to strength. The first year through the new GCSE specifications, 44% of our students achieved 4-4+ and last year this rose to 55% with 64% of all students achieving at least one grade 4 in combined science. In addition to this science has become the leading department for putting post 16 pupils through the level 3 BTEC applied science extended national diploma successfully.

The school was part of Wave 3 Building Schools for the Future programme and the Science department is in newly refurbished buildings, with 5 fully integrated, purpose built science laboratories including one large ‘master lab’. Additionally a well equipped prep room run by our brilliant science technician means that learning is routinely underpinned with regular practical work. All rooms have data projectors and interactive whiteboards and drop down screens to mirror the white board. A range of software and teaching packages are used to support teaching, learning and independent study. There are banks of bookable laptops available for use within lessons.

We therefore seek to appoint a capable practitioner who will be an active member of the science department with an aspiration to lead the team to excellence. This is a fantastic opportunity to work in an outstanding school at the cutting edge of educational developments gaining a national reputation for its success. A comprehensive induction programme is provided into the work of King Ethelbert School and a specific mentoring and guidance programme operates for all new entrants. Ofsted have recognised that guidance and support given by staff for students is outstanding. It is expected that all potential members of staff will have a passion and a commitment to each child achieving their personal best.

King Ethelbert School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This position is therefore subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service application.

The successful candidate may also hold a pastoral responsibility as a tutor within a year system.