

Frequently Asked Questions

Chemistry

Question: Why choose Chemistry A level?

Answer: If you are fascinated by chemical reactions and want to explore the world of atoms and molecules then Chemistry is for you. A Level Chemistry will help you explain the material world. Why does ice float on water? Why is copper sulphate blue? How do proteins stay together? Many aspects of Chemistry touch on your life and link with other subjects, especially Biology, Physics, Maths and Psychology. The course will also develop your practical skills to carry out, interpret, analyse and evaluate experiments. Choose an A level subject you will enjoy, and which will fit in with your career plans.

Question: What are some of the key topics I would cover?

Answer: The OCR A level Chemistry specification splits the content into 6 modules. After securing the Foundations in Chemistry you will develop knowledge of The Periodic Table and Energy. To complete Year 1 you will develop core knowledge of Organic Chemistry. Year 2 brings Physical Chemistry and the Transition elements, followed by an in-depth knowledge of Organic Chemistry and Analysis which includes proton Nuclear Magnetic resonance (^1H NMR) and Infrared Spectroscopy (IR). There is also a bit of Maths and Physics thrown in, too.

Question: How many other subjects can I choose alongside this one?

Answer: Students normally take 3 A levels and so you would be able to choose another 2 A levels. You may choose Maths, another Science or something very different such as Art. Some students, with an excellent performance across their GCSEs, may choose to complete 4 A levels or take up an extended project qualification (EPQ) in Year 2.

Question: What is the learning style like within this subject?

Answer: Within Chemistry we appeal to students with each of the 4 learning styles; auditory; visual; reading/writing; kinaesthetic. We offer a complete notes package to be completed by you at each stage of the learning, which is supported by the teacher and videos and reinforced during the practical sessions. We will ensure your safety under current guidelines for existing practicals, as well as developing new and exciting ways of performing reactions on a micro scale.

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Question: How will I be assessed?

Answer: At the end of the 2-year course you will sit 3 examinations, covering material from both years of the course. The 12 core practical skills will be assessed in class over the 2 years. The practical grade will be recorded separately from your theory grade, as a “pass” or “fail”.

Question: What support can I access if I am struggling?

Answer: From day 1 we set you up to do well and our planned and independent study is linked to the curriculum. This includes past paper questions for each topic as well as research-based tasks. At a small cost we will also provide you with the CGP Revision Guide and Exam Practice Book. Tests are carried out after each topic and so you will have a clear idea of your progress at every step. We offer workshops tailored to the requirements of the students across both years. They cover new learning, as well as revision of previous topics covered. Our SharePoint site, your virtual library, has an array of revision resources as well as lots of ideas on how to improve your grade. 1:1s are also available to you.

Question: Are there any subject specific entry requirements?

Answer: Yes, please refer to the prospectus [here](#) for general and subject specific entry requirements. A level Chemistry requires an interest in the subject and an enthusiasm and commitment to work hard. You will need to develop your abilities to work independently, supported by your teacher, and take responsibility for your own progress.

Question: Are there normally any trips that I can go on?

Answer: We take all students to Sussex University for a day of interesting and informative lectures around life as an undergraduate and advancements in Science. Students may also visit the Diamond Light Source, the UK's national synchrotron Science Facility in Oxfordshire and the X-Ray Crystallography machine at UCL.

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Question: What do students who have studied this area normally do after Collyer's?

Answer: Students who have studied Chemistry with us go onto study a variety of degrees including Natural Sciences, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Sport Science and Mathematics. A degree in chemistry is an excellent preparation for moving out into the world, not just into the very successful chemical and pharmaceutical industry but also into other professions including law and accountancy. Employers who are recruiting graduates tend to regard chemists in an excellent light as they will have developed a broad variety of tested skills, are numerate and flexible.