

Chemistry (OCR)

“Every aspect of the world today - even Politics and International Relations - is affected by Chemistry.” - Linus Pauling

Chemistry is the science of elements and compounds composed of atoms, molecules and ions; their composition, structure, properties, behaviour and the changes they undergo during a reaction with other substances. Some say that Chemistry occupies an intermediate position between Physics and Biology. At Northampton High, Chemistry is a popular subject with those who need it to study Medicine and also those who have a passion for the subject as it sparks their curiosity about the world around them.



Academic

We follow the OCR syllabus, as this encompasses the three main strands of Chemistry: organic, inorganic and physical. Students are challenged to understand some of the concepts they will have already met at GCSE in more detail, and also some new topics which they can go on and study in more depth at University.

Core practicals are at the heart of the syllabus and we pride ourselves on delivering a very practically-based curriculum, going above and beyond the required practicals and making sure that the students develop the broader skills needed in a science lab.

Co-Curricular

The Chemistry department provides a range of trips and lectures alongside out-of-school challenges. Students have the chance to travel to universities to listen to speakers such as Dr Suze Kundu on her journey into Nanoscience and also Professor Peter Atkins sharing his thoughts on energy and entropy.

We also visit a local company where the students make their own polymer, and speak to PhD students about life studying for a PhD. A Level Chemistry students run a Science Club for our younger girls.

In recent years we have entered RSC Top of the Bench competition, Salters Festival at the University of Warwick and also have also had successes in the Chemistry Olympiad.