Applied Science

Why study Applied Science?

Are you the kind of student who loves science, is willing to work hard, but does not enjoy preparing for rigorous written examinations? If so, then this highly practical science course may be the one for you. It is ideal for students who feel they may struggle with the demands of a traditional A Level subject, but don't expect an easy ride.

What does the course cover and what is expected of you?

This exciting course offers you the opportunity to study a broad science curriculum that focuses on the applications of science in the work place. It gives you a background for a wide variety of science based careers in a range of different industries. The course will be taught over two years for 4 double periods each week. You will study 3 mandatory units (involving elements of biology, chemistry and physics) and 3 optional units. The optional units will be chosen by negotiation with the group according to their strengths and interests.

The mandatory units are:

- Fundamentals of Science
- Working in the Science Industry
- Scientific Practical Techniques

There is a long list of optional units including:

- Physiology of Human Body Systems
- Physiology of Human Regulation and Reproduction
- Microbiological Techniques
- Genetics and Genetic Engineering
- Practical Chemical Analysis
- Chemical Laboratory Techniques
- (…… and many more)

The course does not cover the same theoretical depth as a traditional science A Level, but is never the less rigorous and demanding. There are endless exciting practical activities including synthesizing a drug, extracting Vitamin C from broccoli, or centrifuging a blood sample. You will also have a chance to visit real scientists working in state of the art laboratories, as well as designing your own laboratories.

Entry requirements

Students would be expected to have passed Science and Additional Science with a C grade or above at GCSE. The course is not suitable for candidates only studying single science to GCSE level.

Course assessment

The level 3 Subsidiary Diploma is broadly equivalent to an A level, and is graded in the following way:

BTEC Level 3

Subsidiary Diploma award

Pass Grade = E at A Level

Merit Grade = C at A Level

Distinction = Grade A at A Level

Students are assessed on this course by completing a series of assignments which include written and practical tasks as well as other evidence gathered throughout the course.

There are no written examinations to prepare for, but the course is rigorous and demanding in terms of the work load required and the concepts covered.

Student View

"This course was perfect for us as we wanted to learn more about science and there is no exam. We can build up a portfolio of evidence with our teacher's support. There are lots of experiments which help us understand the work. Our visit to a blood testing laboratory in Oxford to see how real science works was amazing!"

Teachers Tip

If you love science, are willing to work hard, but don't like the thought of preparing for demanding examinations at the end, then the Applied Sciences BTEC course is probably suitable for you. There will be endless opportunities for practical work and as much one to one support as you need to help you through the assignments