

Little Heath School Sixth Form

Year 12 Induction Evening for Parents 2016

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| Chemistry |

Welcome to the department

Dr J. Kissick (Leader of Chemistry, [jkissick@littleheath.org.uk](mailto:jkissick@littleheath.org.uk)), Mrs S. Millington-Lee ([SMillington-Lee@littleheath.org.uk](mailto:SMillington-Lee@littleheath.org.uk)) and Miss M. Dimbylow ([mdimbylow@littleheath.org.uk](mailto:mdimbylow@littleheath.org.uk))

We follow the **OCR Chemistry B (Salters)** syllabus

All Year 12 students will be entered for the AS qualification in May/June 2017

This is examined as two units:

***AS Unit H033/01: Foundations of chemistry:***  Examination 1h 30mins (50%)

***AS Unit H033/02: Chemistry in depth:***  Examination 1h 30mins (50%)

The course is taught in five chapters (Elements of life, Developing fuels, Elements from the sea, The ozone story and What’s in a medicine?) all of which are examined in both papers.

Practical skills will be developed throughout the AS course and will be assessed in both exams.

The required course text book is available for purchase (£25 through parent pay). This covers all the AS course and Year 1 of A Level.

Students continuing to study Chemistry into year 13 will study a further five chapters (The chemical industry, Polymers and life, Oceans, Developing metals and Colour by design) and then be entered for the A level qualification in May/June 2018

This is examined as three units:

**A level Unit H433/01: Fundamentals of chemistry** Examination 2h 15mins (41%)

**A level Unit H433/02: Scientific literacy in chemistry**  Examination 2h 15mins (37%)

**A level Unit H433/03: Practical skills in chemistry** Examination 1h 30mins (22%)

All ten chapters studied during Year 12 and Year 13 will be examined in all papers along with relevant practical aspects of the course.

Practical skills will be also be assessed by a series of 12 standardised practical activities that are endorsed by the teacher as PASS or FAIL. This practical endorsement does not contribute to the overall A level grade but will be stated on the A level certificate

The required text book for Year 2 of A level will be available for purchase in June 2017

Students have eight lessons per fortnight and it is very important that they use their supervised study periods wisely to read through notes, annotate their text books and answer consolidation questions.

Key to success at A Level Chemistry

*The model AS/A2 student:*

* Is committed to succeeding in their studies and spends between 5-6 hours per week on chemistry homework and independent study.
* Is organised and brings the correct books and equipment (including a scientific calculator) to lessons and files all their work carefully.
* Uses their textbook as a tool to consolidate learning by highlighting, annotating the chapters as we study them in class and answering and self-marking all the relevant questions regularly.
* Attends all lessons and participates fully in their learning.
* Completes all work set to the best of their ability.
* Meets homework and assignment deadlines.
* Uses the PLCs (available on show my homework and from teachers).
* Does not allow misunderstandings to continue but actively seeks help and asks questions to resolve them.
* Seeks help from staff outside of lesson time whenever necessary.
* Reads around the subject and watches relevant TV documentaries.
* Regularly checks Show My Homework

What parents can do to help

* Ask them about their chemistry lessons.
* Check Show My Homework regularly so you are aware of homework and assignment deadlines.
* Help them manage their time effectively.
* Encourage the reading of scientific literature in newspapers and magazines.
* Encourage them to talk to their teachers or attend catch up sessions if they don’t understand something.
* Contact their teacher if you have any concerns (details above).

Important deadlines

The new Chemistry AS and A level does not have a coursework element.

Students will sit **regular tests** covering the chapters taught. It is expected that students should achieve about **60%**, in these tests and in their homework assignments to demonstrate a reasonable understanding of the knowledge and skills needed to succeed at A Level Chemistry. Any student not achieving this percentage will be expected to attend ‘Chemistry Catch-Up’ on Wednesdays afterschool (3.30 – 4.30pm) where they will be given the assistance required to help them improve their performance and they will be required to re-submit improved work.

Essential equipment

It is essential that all students have a scientific calculator, a copy of the current PLC, a copy of the Chemistry data sheet and their chemistry text book.