



WATFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Headteacher: Miss Sylvia Tai MA

Department Information - Biology Department

The Biology Department is a very successful and highly motivated department in our School. There are currently six specialist Biology teachers in the department who contribute to the teaching of Key Stage 3 Science and Biology at GCSE and A Level, as well as two dedicated Biology technicians. The staff are passionate about their subject and have developed a Biology curriculum that is exciting and stimulating but with a focus on academic rigor. The Biology staff work very closely as a team – producing shared resources and teaching notes for all topics across every Key Stage. We aim to support one another and encourage good teaching practice but also expect initiative and the ability to think independently. As a large department with an excellent standard of teaching, commitment to the subject, determination, and an enthusiastic approach to teaching are essential.

Science is taught in mixed ability groups in years 7 and 8, following a modified Key Stage 3 programme of study. GCSE courses are taught by subject specialists. We follow the Edexcel (9-1) GCSE course for separate qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and Combined Science.

Biology is one of the most popular A Level subjects in the school with a significant number of students choosing to study it in the Sixth Form; the students follow the Eduqas specification for A Level.

Extra-curricular activities are of great importance within Biology. Staff and students in the department participate in Junior Science Club and the CREST award scheme. Sixth Form students can participate in a range of clubs and are encouraged to do the Biology

Intermediate Olympiad and Biology Olympiad. Year 10 participate in the Biology Challenge.

There are six well equipped Biology laboratories. Each has white boards and digital projectors. A large greenhouse is used for propagation of plant material and as an additional teaching resource. The department is fortunate in having a wide range of specialist equipment, books and journals available.

The Biology department is part of a large and thriving science department which is staffed by 19 specialist teachers and 5 technicians. There are 16 laboratories, some recently refurbished and all well equipped to deliver the science curriculum across all key stages. The department works together as a close-knit team and each member of staff contributes to teaching, developing the curriculum and participating in extra-curricular clubs and activities across all age groups.



The departments of Biology, Chemistry and Physics are each managed by a Head of Department who reports to the Head of Science. The Heads of Science team works very closely together to ensure the smooth running of this exceptionally successful department.