



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future

Science

at Dame Allan's Schools, Newcastle



About the Department

The Science Department at Dame Allan's is committed to fostering a **passion for scientific education** and ensuring pupils achieve their full potential in examinations.

We teach biology, chemistry, and physics as separate subjects throughout all key stages, offering a **rich and engaging curriculum** that extends beyond the National Curriculum. Lessons are 65 minutes long, and pupils are encouraged to develop both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in **well-equipped laboratories**.

Across the Key Stages

Years 7 and 8: pupils are taught in form groups and follow a scheme of work that provides a foundation of knowledge in line with the National Curriculum, but as an independent school we enjoy the freedom to extend pupils' knowledge further. Pupils have three periods of each science every fortnight in Year 7, and two periods in Year 8.

Year 9: pupils commence the AQA GCSE specifications, with three lessons of each science per fortnight.

Years 10 and 11: pupils can opt to either study biology, chemistry, and physics as separate GCSE subjects (allocated five periods per fortnight), or follow the GCSE combined science (Trilogy) pathway (allocated three full periods with one rotating science lesson per fortnight).

Sixth Form: biology, chemistry, and physics are all popular subjects at A Level, where we also follow the AQA specification. We usually have three classes in both Year 12 and Year 13 and classes are co-taught by two members of staff. Pupils have ten periods per fortnight in both Year 12 and Year 13.



Equipment and Facilities

In all year groups, we provide a program rich in practical work, going beyond the required practical activities specified by the exam board. The department is well-resourced and consequently we provide an excellent opportunity to develop practical skills and independence.

We aim to build a strong foundation of 'working scientifically' skills, with the understanding that this will benefit pupils within and beyond their science lessons. All pupils are provided with a Chromebook, and staff use G Suite applications, including Google Classroom, to provide access to lesson materials and to stretch pupils' knowledge within and outside the classroom. All pupils have access to an online textbook and a variety of online materials to facilitate their learning.

The addition of the Jubilee Building in the summer of 2023 has expanded our laboratory space, giving us a total of 16 science laboratories, including six dedicated chemistry laboratories and five dedicated physics laboratories across the school. The Science department is supported by four technicians, one specialised in biology, one in physics, and two in chemistry.

To support pupils to reach their potential, staff run regular drop-in surgeries open to all pupils, and exam question clinics for A Level students.



Ethos and Co-curriculum

The department values the positive impact of co-curricular activities on pupil learning and their enthusiasm for science. It would be an advantage to have candidates who were willing to expand and develop our co-curricular provision.

We currently offer opportunities for pupils to undertake independent research projects under the CREST award scheme. We also have links with Newcastle University where our pupils take part in STEM-themed events including the medical and dentistry days.

Each science has its own unique opportunities for enrichment:

- **Biology:** all pupils are entered into Royal Society of Biology competitions. Our A Level pupils enjoy the experience of a residential field trip in Year 13 where we carry out a variety of ecological studies linked to one of the required practical activities.
- **Chemistry:** pupils can take part in the RSC School's quiz and the Salters' competition. Our A Level students have the opportunity to be entered for both the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and the RSC Chemistry Olympiad.
- **Physics:** our pupils take part in STEM-themed events including Women in Engineering and the Global Underwater Hub. Our A Level and GCSE pupils have the opportunity to be entered for the British Physics Olympiad.



What can we offer you?

We know that taking on a new job is a huge decision. Here's what we can offer you if you join our department:

- ◆ Dame Allan's offers a competitive pay scale, exceeding national rates, to reflect the high value we place on our teaching staff.
- ◆ A supportive teaching environment, with room to put your own stamp on the role.
- ◆ Dame Allan's generous pension scheme and discounts on school fees.
- ◆ Extended school holidays beyond the state sector standard.
- ◆ Complimentary school lunches and refreshments during term-time.
- ◆ Comprehensive staff wellbeing support, including a 24/7 Employee Assistance Programme, on-site nurse and counsellors, and fitness classes.
- ◆ Your own Chromebook for work-use, to easily access Google Classroom and other relevant programmes.
- ◆ Ample opportunities for foreign travel, with trips to Berlin, Normandy, Seville, and more.
- ◆ Professional development and CPD opportunities.



Why Newcastle upon Tyne?

Known for our famously-friendly Geordie welcome, Newcastle is a fantastic city to live and work in. A small city, it is very easy to get around via car and public transport. The stunning coastline is a huge benefit for weekend strolls, whilst the beautiful Northumberland countryside is also on your doorstep.

As well as mainstay bakery chain *Greggs*, Newcastle is a foodie hotspot, with several Michelin-starred restaurants and quirky independent venues in the city and surrounding areas. Live music, theatre, and numerous galleries mean that you will never be starved for culture.

Newcastle's International Airport and position on the East Coast Mainline mean travelling both within the country and internationally is no problem. Plus, with a lower cost of living and more affordable housing market than areas like London or Manchester, you might find that you have a bit more in your budget to enjoy those weekend getaways!



Questions?

For more information or to discuss any aspect of the department, please contact:

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