The Gryphon School

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10: 10)

Leadership | Integrity | Fellowship | Exploration

Science Inclusion Strategy:

Attend – Learn – Keep Up – Enrich – Engage

Attend:

Strong relationships with students help to promote attendance through positive relationships. Students are given a fresh start in every lesson, with a friendly greeting on the door, and are made to feel welcome. Lessons in Science as part of Y6 taster days help students to know what Science is like at secondary school so that they feel prepared and enthusiastic ahead of joining us, and active, engaging lessons promote a culture of discovery (as a part of a practical based curriculum) across the department so that students look forward to their lessons and want to be part of the learning.

Technical Team - The science technical team can support disadvantaged and SEND students by preparing resources and practical setups in advance, ensuring lessons start smoothly and students feel confident and motivated to attend on time.

Learn:

Learning happens in lots of different ways in the Science department, with lessons including practical work, group tasks and independent work, allowing students lots of different opportunities to make progress and feel successful. Schemes of work include embedded scaffolding and challenge tasks to cater for students with different starting points and needs, as well as explicit teaching of scientific skills such as graph work and data analysis. At key stage 4 students take either Combined or Separate Sciences, with the needs of each individual student being considered when making those decisions.

Technical Team - They can adapt equipment, provide accessible materials, and support differentiated practical activities so all students can fully engage with scientific concepts regardless of need.

Keep Up

The Science curriculum is designed to ensure that students build on concepts over time, repeatedly coming back to and revisiting key ideas. Timelines include dedicated time for revision, with revision strategies explicitly taught from Y7. Homework is designed to be accessible to all, with supported tasks given to students that need them. Revision guides or textbooks at A level are provided to students where needed, and revision sessions for Y11 at Easter help to give students a boost as they are coming up to exams, with disadvantaged students prioritised for places. Specialist science teachers work with students in Gateway as part of their timetable to help them to keep up with their Science learning.

Technical Team - By organising catch-up resources, simplified experiment guides, and pre-prepared materials, the team helps students who miss lessons or need extra support to stay on track.

Enrich

There are a whole range of enrichment activities on offer through the Science department, from Eco club to IRIS research projects, as well as events for sixth form students such as the Biology Olympiad and the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. Close links with other local schools allow students to take part in cross school events such as a half termly Chemistry Symposium or visits to listen to visiting speakers, with ex-students also coming to talk to students at school about career progression. Pupils in key stage 3 have also been involved in activities for British Science Week in lesson time, as well as in a yearly literacy-based competition to write a Science based poem (sci-ku and acrostics). Enrichment in Science is driven by a strong culture of celebration, including recognising achievement through rewards and Scientist of the Month, while maintaining regular contact with home and sharing positive emails and phone calls to highlight students' success and progress.

Technical Team - The team can facilitate inclusive extracurricular activities, such as adapted science clubs or hands-on workshops, ensuring disadvantaged and SEND students have equal access to enrichment opportunities.

Engage

Engagement with parents starts with our very active Y6 open evening, which shows our ethos of learning through discovery and a sense of fun, as well as in discussions with parents and students at sixth form open evenings. From there, positive communication with home helps to build relationships with parents and allows early intervention if students are struggling. Student effort and success is celebrated by staff through the scientist of the month. At KS4 parents evenings we ensure that parents can see at least one of their child's three science teachers by giving each class a priority teacher to book with, to make sure that all parents have the information they need to support their child. Drive engagement in Science through consistent homework and reward tracking, regular praise, early tier-entry conversations, structured schemes of work, retrieval tasks at the start of lessons, proactive communication with parents - including Level 2 contact home - and targeted parent forums in Years 9 and 11.

Technical team - Through safe, well-prepared, and interactive practical experiences, the technical team helps create an engaging learning environment that builds confidence and encourages active participation from all students.