

NORTHGATE
SIXTH FORM
CENTRE

IPSWICH



CHEMISTRY

A-LEVEL

2020-2021

A Level Chemistry

We have prepared this leaflet to provide you with answers to some of the questions we are most frequently asked by prospective students and their parents.

Which chemistry course do you offer?

We offer the OCR GCE Chemistry A course which leads to a full Advanced Level after 2 years of study.

What grade do I need at GCSE?

You need at least one grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science or a grade 6 or better in Chemistry as a single GCSE subject.

Is there a big jump from GCSE science?

We believe that the course is an excellent follow-on for our students. The work covered initially in Year 12 builds on the knowledge and understanding acquired in the GCSE Science courses. Teachers and students work together to gain a good understanding of some of the basic principles required during the course, before moving on to more unfamiliar material.

Like all A Levels, our course is not an easy option, and we expect our students to spend at least five hours every week on chemistry outside of lessons.

There is also a need for simple learning of, for example, certain reaction conditions or types of reacting species.

What other subjects go well with chemistry?

Students in the past have found that chemistry complements a wide range of different subjects such as psychology, geography, art, history and English to name a few.

Chemistry sits centrally within the sciences, and this course provides overlap with other A Level science courses, particularly biology, physics and maths.

How is the course taught?

Students work both individually and in groups in a variety of structured teaching sessions. There is a good deal of practical work, which encourages students to reach an understanding of the subject through experience. Every student has two teachers, who they will see twice a week each, covering different aspects of the course.

What is the Chemistry Department at Northgate High School like?

We currently have six experienced chemistry teachers and a dedicated technician in the Chemistry Department. All teachers teach to A Level and there are around 100 sixth form students studying chemistry at Northgate this year.

A Level Chemistry consists of six modules:

1. Development of practical skills in chemistry
2. Foundations in chemistry
3. Periodic table and energy
4. Core organic chemistry
5. Physical chemistry and transition elements
6. Organic chemistry and analysis

How is the course assessed?

Modules 1 to 6 are assessed by three written examinations in June of Year 13.

Students will complete practical work throughout the two-year course and will build up a practical portfolio on which they will be assessed. This will lead to a separately reported practical endorsement in chemistry.

Where does A Level Chemistry lead?

Chemistry is a valued subject for all students, whether or not they go on to study chemistry at a higher level, as it nurtures a method of analytical problem-solving in the student.

Careers in medicine, forensic science, financial services, law, materials science, biomedical science, pharmacology, medical and chemical engineering, dietetics, environmental health, veterinary medicine and the chemical industry are a few of those on offer to students with a qualification in chemistry.

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