

## **The Thomas Hardy School Science Department**

The Science Department has 16 full time teachers and 3 part time teachers. There are also 3 technicians. The Science Department is composed of a supportive, focused and enthusiastic team who are always looking for ways to make learning engaging for students whilst allowing them to progress to their full potential. Within the department there are Teaching and Learning Responsibilities attributed to: Curriculum Leader of Science, , Head of Biology, Head of Chemistry, Head of Physics, Outreach Coordinator, Science Teacher Training Coordinator and Science Lead Learner.

The department is designed to meet the requirements of modern science teaching, with 16 fully equipped laboratories and two well stocked preparation rooms. Each laboratory is installed with a projector, and every science teacher has a laptop to make use of the school network and interactive white boards. Wireless internet access is available throughout the department and several software packages are installed on the school network.

Students begin their study of GCSE Science on arrival at the school in Year 9. They are initially taught in mixed ability sets, moving in to tiered groups for years 10 and 11. Currently, approximately a third of the students follow a course leading to AQA Triple Award Science with the remaining students preparing for AQA Combined Science Trilogy. There is a very strong sixth form uptake of sciences in which students study Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Science, again following the AQA specifications.

Students are given the opportunity to get involved in a wide range of STEM Science Clubs, external science competitions and courses designed to enrich the learning of all students. Visits range from field studies at Studland through to the annual trip to Florida to visit the everglades and Kennedy Space Centre.