



Science at The Gilbert School

The Gilbert is an outstanding school with a clear vision of excellence and attainment; our Science Curriculum Area mirrors this. As a team, we value the combination of a rigorous curriculum with a passion for teaching this important subject. We are a very successful, hard-working, motivated team and achieve excellent examination results; we are constantly striving to improve our teaching standards and student learning.



Dedicated and diverse, we are a team of twelve full time and three part time subject specialists who all teach across Key Stages three and four and across the full spectrum of ability. If appointed as Curriculum Leader, you will be supported by two Key Stage Co-ordinators and a Lead Teacher of Science. You would line manage the Subject Leader for Health and Social Care who is also within the Science Curriculum Area. We are also supported by a team of three dedicated technicians.

The Gilbert, and particularly the Science Department, are very active within the Colchester Teacher Training Consortium. This enables our staff to assume greater responsibility in developing the skills of others, in mentoring and in meetings with colleagues beyond the school, whilst being reflective about our own practices during the process.

We currently offer EDEXCEL GCSE to all students. Students study GCSE in Years 9 - 11. Whilst Combined Science is studied by the majority of our students, those who would like to study the Separate Sciences can do so through choosing this as one of their option choices. As an 11-16 school, although we do not teach A level classes, we provide masterclasses and lectures to enhance students' interest and their aspirations.

We currently teach six hours of Science per fortnight to Years 7 and 8, 8 hours per fortnight for Year 9, nine hours per fortnight in Year 10, and 10 lessons to Year 11. In addition to this, we run holiday revision courses for Year 11 students; the uptake for these is always very high and the workshops are highly productive.

Resources

- Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard or smart touchscreen television, speakers and desktop computer.
- We have excellent resources to carry out practicals with support from 3 technicians.
- Science has timetabled access to computer suites with the possibility of booking extra sessions on occasion.
- Sets of laptops are bookable via an online system.

- Dictionaries and thesauruses are in all rooms.
- We subscribe to the Active Learn (Year 7-11) website and have a wealth of resources on the Science department OneDrive, and on Gilbert VLE.
- A variety of textbooks are available in each Science classroom.

Co-Curricular

- Our after-school Science club is well attended by Years 7 and 8. This is run by science staff on a rota.
- We were delighted to progress to the national finals this year in the Vex robotics competition and regularly take part in the Rocketry Competition.
- STEAM club is open to all and is highly popular.



Organisation

- Students in Years 7 and 8 have six hours of Science each fortnight, whilst in Year 9 students have eight hours, in Year 10 they have nine hours, and in Year 11 they have 10 hours. We operate a two-week timetable.
- Science classes from Years 7 to 11 are set by ability.
- Each year group is split into two populations for timetabling purposes, the ability profile of each being similar.
- There are six or seven Science sets in each population (half of a year group), depending upon the size of the year group.



Assessment Overview

Year 7 and 8

- Students complete two assessments per year using highly differentiated papers aligned to the scheme of work. These assess progress on taught content and allow students to demonstrate wider knowledge through multi-step, multi-topic questions.
- Each topic includes a keystone assessment point focusing on key subject knowledge and scientific investigation skills.
- In Years 7 and 8, students are placed in the same sets for Science, Maths and Modern Foreign Languages.
- Assessments are both formative and summative. Results are shared across the school to support progress monitoring and targeted intervention. Students receive individual feedback and dedicated lesson time to respond and improve.

Year 9 to 11

- Assessment follows a similar model to Years 7 and 8, with increased frequency. Students complete an end-of-unit test after each topic, with feedback provided.
- Years 9 and 10 sit end-of-year assessments. Year 11 students complete two GCSE-style mock examinations, in December and March.

Outcomes

Combined Science

| KPI | 2024 National Average | 2024 Results 251 Students | KPI | 2025 National Average | 2025 Results 238 Students |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| A*/A or 7+ | 8.8% | 15% | A*/A or 7+ | 9.1% | 19.2% |
| 5+ | | 45% | 5+ | 27% | 52.9% |
| A*-C or 4+ | 57.1% | 67% | A*-C or 4+ | 57.6% | 71.7% |
| Average grade | 4.8 | 5.5 | Average grade | 4.5 | 5.7 |

Separate Science: Biology

| KPI | 2024 National Average | 2024 Results 60 Students | KPI | 2025 National Average | 2025 Results 64 Students |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| A*/A or 7+ | 42% | 52% | A*/A or 7+ | 43.4% | 59.4% |
| 5+ | | 93% | 5+ | 81% | 95.3% |
| A*-C or 4+ | 89.2% | 97% | A*-C or 4+ | 89.4% | 98.4% |
| Average grade | 6.0 | 6.4 | Average grade | 6.1 | 6.4 |

Separate Science: Chemistry

| KPI | 2024 National Average | 2024 Results 60 Students | KPI | 2025 National Average | 2025 Results 64 Students |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| A*/A or 7+ | 44.7% | 55% | A*/A or 7+ | 46.1% | 56.3% |
| 5+ | | 95% | 5+ | 81% | 93.8% |
| A*-C or 4+ | 90.5% | 98% | A*-C or 4+ | 91.5% | 96.9% |
| Average grade | 6.0 | 6.3 | Average grade | 6.1 | 6.3 |

Separate Science: Physics

| KPI | 2024 National Average | 2024 Results 60 Students | KPI | 2025 National Average | 2025 Results 64 Students |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| A*/A or 7+ | 44% | 55% | A*/A or 7+ | 45.1% | 46.9% |
| 5+ | | 98% | 5+ | 81% | 93.8% |
| A*-C or 4+ | 90.2% | 98% | A*-C or 4+ | 90.8% | 96.9% |
| Average grade | 6.0 | 6.1 | Average grade | 6.1 | 6.5 |

What are we looking for?

Due to the relocation of the current post-holder, we are seeking to appoint an outstanding and dedicated Teacher of Science with strong leadership skills to lead our successful and well-established science department.

You will also play a key role working collaboratively with the other Curriculum Leaders across The Gilberd School. This is a highly effective, supportive team.

The successful candidate will be positive, solutions-focused, with the vision and enthusiasm to guide and lead the department through the forthcoming curriculum changes and developments. You will build on the team's strong foundations, maintaining its excellent reputation and consistently high outcomes.

Applicants should have a proven track record of leading or supporting colleagues. You will be committed to keeping teaching and learning fresh, effective and engaging, and to promoting a collaborative culture that reflects our ethos of mutual support and professional growth.

As a school, we place high value on oracy, precise communication and reflective practice. We encourage innovation and a commitment to continual improvement in teaching and learning, and we are looking for a leader who will champion these principles both in their own classroom and across the department.

We look forward to meeting you.



The Gilberd School

ENGAGE, ENDEAVOUR, EXCEL.

IMPLICIO, CONATUS, EXCELLIERE