

St Andrew's College

Science Vision

Our vision for science education at St Andrew's college is more than learning about chemical reactions and parts of a cell. It is about understanding the needs of every individual and responding appropriately. This is why the all science students are currently taught one to one. This allows the teacher to get to know each young person's previous learning experience, learning style and future aspirations. Students also have access to our Demo Room. This is a purpose built, specially designed room where science experiments and demonstrations can take place safely.

Here at St Andrew's we offer individualised science courses based on the learner's needs. This information is gathered from regular meetings with the learner, information from previous schools or placements and baseline assessments. Assessments are only offered when the learner feels ready and is supported at each step. For example if the learner requires a break part way through, this is facilitated.

Once the learner has completed the baseline assessment they are able to enrol on a range of differentiated science courses. These courses are based on the learner's interest, career aspirations and academic requirements. Current science courses include science unit awards, Entry Level Certificate in Science (single and double award), IGCSE biology and A level biology (support).

Science courses at St Andrew's College allow learners to fill any gaps in their knowledge, and identify and correct any misconceptions. It also ensures that if a student is discharged before sitting their final exam they will have a series of AQA unit awards when they leave. This delivery also improves learners motivation to 'learn, achieve and believe' in themselves.

It is our aim that every science learner will leave the college with a qualification, which will help their self-esteem, independence and prepare them for the next stage of education, employment or training.

The science curriculum is reviewed regularly and consequently, the science department now offers stand-alone unit awards as part of the 'Science at home and in the community'. These units are designed to give learners practical life skills and knowledge to prepare them for independent life in the community. For example in unit 1 Hygiene, Pathogens & Disease, students learn about how pathogens infect the body, to identify Lyme disease and how good hand hygiene can prevent the spread of disease. Other units teach students about carbon monoxide poisoning and the dangers to look for and measures that can help keep them safe.

The science teachers work closely with other members of the college team. For example, our careers teacher helps support the needs of the learner career's decisions and provides valuable information that can guide the learner and science teacher. Students learn which courses are best for them and how these opportunities can improve their life-chances e.g. career choice and development. As part of teaching life skills, the science department has teamed up with the English team to improve learner's use of vocabulary and reading for pleasure. Students not only become well versed in key words in science but also have the opportunity to attend library sessions with the Reading Dog (supported by the science lead teacher).

We value the positive relationships made through students learning journey and the importance of good communication. That is why the college is in regular contact with the learner, parents or carers, multi-disciplinary care team and external professionals. If you have any questions please contact the college.