**Walton High School**

**Science Department**

**Current Department Structure**

**Background Information**

We are a large, vibrant and forward-thinking department consisting of 15 teaching staff and 2 technicians. We believe the quality of our teaching and learning in Science to be outstanding. The science department places evidence-informed practice at the heart of our teaching and learning strategy, such as the use of explicit instruction, managing of cognitive load, questioning and retrieval practice.

Science is a highly popular subject and we offer a variety of Science courses at Walton High School to cater for all learners. Our KS3 curriculum is taught over year 7, 8 and 9. It is an ambitious curriculum which seeks to teach students the foundational knowledge needed for GCSE. In year 10 and 11, our students embark on full GCSE Science study. We strive to ensure that teachers are teaching within their subject specialism at GCSE. A group of students will opt to study the Triple Science pathway (usually 25%-30% of the cohort), while the majority of students study the Combined Science route. The uptake of Science courses at A level is always high and teachers always teach their subject specialism. We offer A levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and a BTEC Level 3 in Forensic Science and Criminal Investigations.

**Science Curriculum at Walton High School**

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| **Course** | **Allocated Time** |
| KS3 Science | 4 periods per week  (taught as 2 doubles in year 7, 8 and 9) |
| AQA GCSE Combined Science  (taught over years 10 and 11) | 6 periods per week  (taught as 3 doubles by subject specialist teachers) |
| AQA GCSE Triple Science  (an option subject in years 10 and 11) | 9 periods per week  (taught by subject specialist teachers) |
| AQA A level Biology | 6 periods per week  (taught as 3 doubles by subject specialist teachers) |
| AQA A level Physics | 6 periods per week  (taught as 3 doubles by subject specialist teachers) |
| AQA A level Chemistry | 6 periods per week  (taught as 3 doubles by subject specialist teachers) |
| BTEC Level 3 Forensic Science | 12 periods per week  (taught as 6 doubles) |