

CHEMISTRY

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Chemistry is the study of matter and energy and the interaction between them. There are many reasons to study Chemistry, even if you aren't pursuing a career in science. Chemistry is everywhere in the world around you! It's in the food you eat, clothes you wear, water you drink, medicines, air, cleaners – you name it.

COURSE DETAILS

Qualification: A level Chemistry

Awarding Body: AQA

Entry Requirements: 5 GCSE grades A*- C/4+ including English language. Maths grade 6 plus GCSE Chemistry grade 6 OR science trilogy 6,6

Chemistry sometimes is called the “central science” because it connects other sciences to each other, such as Biology, Physics, Geology and Environmental Science. Chemistry is a well respected A level that can open up many pathways for the future from medicine, to patent law, forensic science or farming.

COURSE STRUCTURE & ASSESSMENT

There are three exams at the end of the two years for A level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A level Chemistry are based on what you learn in your practicals.

- Paper 1: Physical and Inorganic Chemistry
- Paper 2: Physical and Organic Chemistry
- Paper 3: Applied and Practical Chemistry

Physical Chemistry includes work on: atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, thermodynamics, kinetics, chemical equilibrium and acid base chemistry.

Inorganic Chemistry includes work on: redox, periodicity, Group 2 the alkaline earth metals, Group 7(17) the halogens, electrode potentials and electrochemical cells, period 3 elements and their oxides, and properties and reactions of transition metals.

Organic Chemistry includes work on: alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols, organic analysis, optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and derivatives, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, NMR spectroscopy and chromatography.

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I've been at Lymm since starting high school in Year 7. I chose to continue my studies into Sixth Form here as I feel comfortable within the school community and confident in the teachers. You get so much support from the teachers and sixth form staff – they're always willing to help.

I really enjoy Organic Chemistry and the practical sessions. I intend to study medicine at university and have found

the introduction to biochemistry invaluable.

Whilst studying for my A levels I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to visit Wythenshawe hospital. I was given a tour around the breast cancer centre which gave me an insight into the hospital environment and this confirmed my desire to study medicine.

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ELLEN THOMAS