



WELCOME TO A-LEVEL CHEMISTRY

Welcome to the A-level Chemistry course. In order to achieve to your potential, it is important that you understand the jump between GCSE and A-level as it is one of the biggest leaps you are going to make in your educational life. Chemistry is a demanding A-level which is why your commitment and hard work is expected. It is important that you carry out independent learning regularly, in your own time and read around the subject so that you can develop your skills in Chemistry further. You may not have done much of this in the past but you will have to do much more of this now. It is expected that you review your work at the end of each lesson and if you need help with a concept, don't be afraid to ask!

The course:

- This year, you will be studying the OCR A Chemistry course.
- The AS course is made up of two exams (paper one and paper two) which will take place in May/June 2017. These exams will both be 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- If you proceed onto the A level course you will complete three exams (paper one, paper two and paper three). These exams will be two hours and fifteen minutes each.
- The course content is split between three teachers, with each teacher teaching you a different topic.
- The recommended text book is 'OCR AS/A level Chemistry A.'
ISBN: 9781447990789
- For more information on the new specification, please visit <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-chemistry-a-h032-h432-from-2015/>

What are unit tests?

- This year you will study 4 different modules. For each module there will be a Mid-module test (half way through the module) and an End of Module test (at the end of every module).
- Module tests are important as they are used to track your progress as you go through the course. They are also used to inform you and your parents/carers of how you are doing and for us to judge if any intervention is needed to help support you. Therefore, it is important that you revise as you go through the course. You will be given notice if a module test is coming!

What are PATs?

- Around once a month, you will be given a Progress Assessment Test (PAT) by each teacher. It will comprise of past paper questions worth 15-20 marks, lasting 15-20 minutes. Your teacher will let you know in advance when these will take place.
- Some tests/work will be marked diagnostically which means your teacher will write comments on your work to help you make better progress. It is expected that you will respond to the feedback in a different colour pen and you will keep a record of all essays carried out in your folder.



Mock Exams:

- Mock exams are carried out towards the end of the course to give you an experience of what the actual exam in June will be like. Dates will be announced in due course.

Personal Tracking Sheet:

- The result of any test you do must be recorded on your Personal Tracking Sheet.

PLCs (Personal Learning Checklists):

- At the start of each module, your teacher will give you a PLC. This contains specification statements that your lessons will be based around. Every lesson, we expect you to diagnose your learning to help identify how much progress you have made. You must keep these in your folders.

PAG Tasks:

- Practical endorsement activities will take place throughout the year, within your lessons. You must pass these tasks.
- Your teachers will let you know when these will take place.
- If you are absent for a PAG task, you must liaise with your teacher and complete this in another lesson with another class.

Folder spot-checks:

- These are carried out to check your organisation and to ensure all of your notes are up-to-date. These will be carried out randomly every month for two students. Not all folders will be checked but you should anticipate that your folder will be checked at some point. Teachers will give you notice of when a folder spot-check is coming. At the front of each folder, you should have:
 - *Course structure*
 - *Personal tracking sheet*
 - *PLC...followed by your notes and any past paper questions.*

Expectations and your lessons:

- You must attend all lessons. However, if for some reason you know you are going to be absent from a lesson, you must approach the teacher whose lesson you are missing before the planned absence and inform them of this. It is expected that you attend an alternative lesson or if this is not possible, catch up with the work missed.
- Also, to each lesson, you must bring your own folder and lined paper to work on. How you organise your folder is up to you but we recommend a folder with dividers for each teacher or, a separate folder for each teacher.
- You must bring your own lab coat for any practical lesson or PAG task, or you will not be able to carry out the above.



Focus groups:

- If we feel that you are struggling on the course or that the grade you are achieving does not reflect your true potential, you may be asked to attend a focus group. These are held fortnightly on a Wednesday and you will be informed if we expect you to attend.

Reports & Underachievement:

- If there is consistently poor attendance, poor organisation or poor punctuality, you will be put on report.
- In the first instance, you will receive a phone call home.
- Underachievement will result in a phone call/letter home.

Lab Coats:

- You must bring your own lab coat for any practical lesson or PAG task, or you will not be able to carry out the above.

Moodle:

- Every student will belong to the Year 12 Chemistry Moodle group. You must check this page regularly because it will be invaluable to your progress. The page is regularly updated with PowerPoints, past paper questions, forum discussions, exam tips and important notices.