

Welcome to the Southam College
Sixth Form



Welcome to BTEC level 3 Applied Science

Purpose of the course

Applied Science provides a broad understanding of science across the three disciplines.

The course is suited to students who do not want to specialise on one particular science at this stage or students who prefer a course with a mixture of external and internal assessment.

The course provides an ideal basis for many science based university courses such as nursing, midwifery, primary teaching and paramedic science.

Links to specification and details of course

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Nationals/Applied-Science/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446938164_BTECNat_AppSci_ExtCert_Spec.pdf

Structure of the course

- ▶ Applied Science Extended Certificate is a 2 year course leading to a pass, merit, distinction or distinction * overall, and is equivalent to an A level.
- ▶ In year 12, there is one externally examined unit taken in May and covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics - each subject is assessed by a 40 min exam. The exams will have a mixture of short and longer answer questions.
- ▶ There is also an internally assessed unit which takes the form of 4 assignments (coursework) based on practical work.
- ▶ In year 13, there is another externally examined unit taken in January and based on practical skills.
- ▶ There is a second internally assessed unit made of three assignments about the human body (digestive, musculoskeletal and immune system) which has an overlap with Sport and Health & Social Care.

What to expect

- ▶ In year 12, you will have three specialist teachers. One will deliver the biology content for Unit 1, one to deliver the Physics content for Unit 1 and the third will deliver the Chemistry content for Unit 1 plus the practical element for Unit 2 as this is primarily Chemistry based.
- ▶ The content starts with concepts covered at GCSE and extends to a Level 3 understanding.
- ▶ There will be a mixture of theory lessons, practical lessons, research tasks and sessions to write up the practical tasks and assignments.
- ▶ You will be expected to organise your time effectively both in lessons and in study periods/ at home in order to meet the various deadlines.

Achievements of previous students

- ▶ The vast majority of students achieve a distinction at the end of the two year course. This is the equivalent of an A in an A Level and has the same number of UCAS points attached for University applications.
- ▶ We also have a number of students who achieve a D* - equivalent to an A* at A Level.
- ▶ Students have gone on to study a range of degree or apprenticeships including a number of nurses and paramedics.

Advice and comments from current students

- ▶ Revise as you go along in order to balance the demands of exams and coursework
- ▶ It is not as easy as you might think - don't underestimate the course as you will have to work hard.
- ▶ You will study a lot of interesting topics and there is a lot of practical work - much more than in lower school.
- ▶ The course is a lot of Chemistry, more than expected.
- ▶ The exams in year 12 are only 40 mins long - one for each subject area so you can revise the specific content for each paper.
- ▶ Keep your GCSE Science exercise books as these will help with recapping the knowledge you should have from KS4.