

Applied Science BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma

Exam Board: Edexcel

As a new addition to the prospectus we are proud to offer a BTEC National Level 3 qualification in Applied Science. As a subsidiary diploma, it is worth the same as a single A-Level covering some scientific theory, building on fundamental ideas encountered in GCSE science, as well as incorporating practical and vocational skills suited to those interested in careers in the science industry.

Students wishing to participate in this course will need 5 GCSEs with a minimum of a C grade in both Maths and English, due to the essential abilities needed for confidently using calculations in analysis techniques, including mole calculations, and the high level of communication required.

The BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Applied Science comprises 6 equally weighted units to be studied over 2 years that consists of 3 mandatory units and 3 optional units.

Summary of course content for Year 12

| Mandatory unit | Description | Examinations / Portfolio | % of total qualification |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Fundamentals of Science | Students learn to develop the practical techniques necessary to pursue a career as a laboratory technician. Learners will investigate the quantities necessary in chemical reactions, the structure and functions of cells, the calorific value of different fuels and develop skills in communicating scientific information. | Internally assessed coursework | 16.67% of Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma |
| Working in the Science Industry | Students gain the knowledge and skills that an employee in the science industry needs to be an effective, efficient and safe member of a team. Learners will know communication practices, how laboratories are designed, how information is stored in laboratory information management (LIMS) and how to work safely in a scientific workplace. | Internally assessed coursework | 16.67% of Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma |
| Scientific Practical Techniques | Students learn the skills to use a range of practical techniques used in science such as the analysis of substances, the separation of substances and the use of instruments/sensors. | Internally assessed coursework | 16.67% of Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma |

As it is a new course to Chauncy, the three optional units that will be undertaken in Year 13 have yet to be decided however, they will all be internally assessed pieces of coursework.

Frequently asked questions

How does the BTEC National Award qualification work in practice?

The course is split into 6 equally weighted units studied over a 2 year period.

What GCSE grades do I need for BTEC Applied Science Subsidiary Diploma?

It is important that you have achieved a grade C or above in GCSE Science double award; however, you must have at least 5 GCSEs with a grade C and above in Maths and English.

What skills do I need to do well?

There are a number of qualities that are of particular importance in doing well at BTEC Applied Science, these are:

- The ability to set and meet coursework deadlines
- The ability to write coherently, logically and present work well
- The ability to enthusiastically research topics independently of arranged lessons
- The ability to approach practical work seriously with health and safety in mind

Is there lots of practical work?

Part of the course requires the learning of practical skills used in laboratories that could be suitable to be developed to a level of a technician working in the science industry. Practical skills are assessed and require a high level of focus and determination.

Are there text books available to help me?

The main text book is published by Pearson and covers all mandatory units and 15 optional units. Watching science-based programmes and following science news reports will be encouraged to help broaden your understanding of the application of science in the 'real world'.

Mrs Samia Nicolas
Teacher of Science