



Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, Canterbury

Science at the Langton

As befits one of the leading specialist science schools in the country, The Langton prides itself on the high standard of academic achievement of the students and the innovative opportunities presented to the students to allow them to develop and extend their studies beyond the confines of the normal curriculum. Success is measured by the extremely high uptake of the subject post GCSE and the high percentage of students that go on to read STEM related subjects at University.

Key Stage 3 Science is delivered in years 7 and 8. The boys are taught as tutor groups of mixed ability.

At Key Stage 4 the students follow the AQA specification. All of our students follow the separate sciences option and the overwhelming majority sit the higher tier papers.

A-level sees many students joining from other schools to study science courses. This academic year biology (AQA), chemistry (OCR) and physics (AQA) all had an intake of 4 or 5 classes in year 12. A high percentage of these students follow the courses through to A2.

The Science Department provides a wide range of extra activities for the students. Throughout the year there is a range of high-profile lectures aimed at challenging the students' knowledge of their subject. Scientific visits both at home and abroad are very popular and students regularly participate in national science competitions.

What we do that is different may be summed up within the activities of the Langton Star Centre. Students are given the opportunity to take part in real scientific research alongside their AS or A2 study.

The school has its own observatory and runs observing sessions over the winter months for students on an informal basis. We also have a fully functioning radio telescope – Radio JOVE, which has been used to support EPQ projects over the last few years.

The GENE (Genetic Engineering iN Education) is an original academic research project investigating a protein implicated in the development and progression of Multiple Sclerosis. The work currently involves a group of A-level students working in close collaboration with research scientists from the University of Kent.

Students regularly meet to discuss their findings, and are frequently asked to present their work at meetings, conferences and academic seminars, including our own symposium that is run here at the school every summer. In 2019, our symposium included 15 student talks and posters, a range of exhibitions of student projects and a keynote speech from one of our old students.