

Why study Chemistry?

Chemistry touches every aspect of our lives. It helps us solve crime, safeguard our food and water supply, develop life saving medicines, protect the environment and produce new technologies. Chemistry is the central, fundamental science. Only through a sound understanding of chemical properties and processes can we truly understand biological and physical phenomena.

The analytical, communication, numeracy and problem solving skills developed through the Chemistry A-level are extremely versatile. Chemistry and its associated industries (fuels, pharmaceuticals, fragrances) are the most economically important manufacturing industries in the UK providing Chemistry graduates with a wide range of exciting and well paid employment opportunities. Beyond the lab, Chemistry opens doors to careers in medicine, education, finance, forensics, law, consultancy, media, and sales & marketing.

What will you study in Chemistry?

We have chosen to follow AQA Chemistry at A-level which covers physical, inorganic and organic Chemistry. As a context-free course it allows us the flexibility and creativity to adapt teaching and learning to meet the needs of the students. Furthermore the rigorous and challenging content encourages our students to develop key scientific skills and expand on their understanding of chemical theory.

All students will study the full A level but be entered for the AS level exams at the end of the first year . This will give universities a genuine and useful indicator of progress rather than relying on GCSE results, which do not reflect differences between top students.

Why study Chemistry at Hackney New Sixth Form?

There are three reasons why you should study Chemistry at HNSF.

- Specialist teachers and technicians - There is a shortage of specialist teachers in STEM subjects in the whole country, and London is no different. At HNSF you will be taught Chemistry by a subject specialist teacher who studied Chemistry at University. Our support staff is no different - our technician studied Chemistry at Imperial College.
- New facilities and equipment - Our school was completed in September 2015. This means that all the science labs (and practical equipment) are brand new. With the focus on required practicals in the new specifications, we have invested tens of thousands of pounds over the last few years to ensure our

labs are well stocked, with everything from data loggers to infra-red cameras. Come for a visit at the open evening and see some of it for yourself.

- A focus on study skills - Universities have been very vocal over the last few years about how ill prepared they feel new students have been for degree-level study. At HNS you will be taught study skills to help you prepare for university, both in lessons and the way you do homework but also in dedicated slots. We do more than just teach you the content, aware that the two years between GCSE and University is our chance to make sure that bright students are ready for further study.

How will I be assessed?

All courses are now linear. This means you will be assessed by exams at the end of the year. See below for detail of breakdown. There will be no coursework. Instead, there will be 12 required practicals for students to develop skills necessary for those wishing to study chemistry at university. These skills and knowledge of these practicals will be tested in exam paper 3.

Assessments

Paper 1	+	Paper 2	+	Paper 3
What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant Physical chemistry topics (sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.4, 3.1.6 to 3.1.8 and 3.1.10 to 3.1.12) • Inorganic chemistry (Section 3.2) • Relevant practical skills 		What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant Physical chemistry topics (sections 3.1.2 to 3.1.6 and 3.1.9) • Organic chemistry (Section 3.3) • Relevant practical skills 		What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any content • Any practical skills
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 2 hours • 105 marks • 35% of A-level 		How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 2 hours • 105 marks • 35% of A-level 		How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 2 hours • 90 marks • 30% of A-level
Questions 105 marks of short and long answer questions		Questions 105 marks of short and long answer questions		Questions 40 marks of questions on practical techniques and data analysis 20 marks of questions testing across the specification 30 marks of multiple choice questions

Entry Criteria:

A/A* in Chemistry (GCSE) or AA/A*A* in Core and Additional Science. Strong mathematical skills are also a requirement so grade A in GCSE Mathematics is also needed.