



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER **Mr I Gaughan BA**

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Welcome to the Holy Cross Science Department

A wonderful opportunity has arisen to become a member of our successful science department. We wish to appoint an enthusiastic, highly motivated and excellent teacher of science who is able to share the vision of our department to ensure outstanding outcomes for all our pupils.

Within the science department, there are seven full-time and two part-time teachers, each with their own subject specialisms. We work collaboratively to provide pupils with a high quality curriculum and every lesson is planned with pupils at the heart of our curriculum. Our aim is to deliver exciting lessons that stimulate and develop pupil curiosity, promote logical thinking and widen knowledge. We offer innovative learning opportunities designed to enthuse and inspire learning. At our school, pupils **want** to learn science.

We currently deliver the AQA GCSE specifications. All pupils follow the AQA Trilogy course and achieve very well, with results well above the national average (17% excellence grades, 53% strong pass, 71% standard pass). There is a class within each year group which follows the AQA Separate Sciences course with great successes being achieved (60% of pupils achieving excellence grades across the three disciplines).

In all years, pupils are taught in sets according to ability. Teachers normally teach the same class in Years 10 and 11 in order to ensure continuity as they approach their GCSE examinations. In lower school classes, pupils have different teachers to provide experiences of different teaching styles. Throughout all our year groups, the science department continually reviews and develops the curriculum to ensure that it provides rigor and challenge for our pupils, whilst also embedding regular retrieval practice.

Science is a well-resourced department and is taught in eight specialist rooms, each of which is equipped with a flat screen television, a surface tablet and access to the school's wireless network. We have a full-time technician who keeps the department running smoothly with experiments being encouraged to enable the pupils to learn with both an academic and kinesthetic approach.

We have excellent relationships with local businesses and colleges through our STEM links and pupils are actively encouraged to enter competitions. Extra-curricular visits are vital to the future progression of pupils and opportunities in the last academic year included GCSE Science Live, a project to design and make ecofriendly wipes with Unilever, Tomorrow's Engineers Robotics challenge, science and innovation days at Runshaw and our thriving STEM club where pupils can explore and engage in science not normally covered within the curriculum.

In addition to this, we have taken a large number of pupils to Iceland to see the Aurora Borealis and the geysers. This is a department where we believe in allowing pupils the opportunity to explore external opportunities to see and experience the application of science in the outside world.

Should you have any questions about us, or would like to look around the department and meet the team before applying for the post, please do not hesitate to contact me l.brown@holycross.lancs.sch.uk

Miss Lauren Brown
Head of Science