FOR YEARS 7, 8 & 9 (2026-2027)

KEVI HANDSWORTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL SCIENCE FACULTY
KS3 Course Structure

The Key Stage 3 course follows the **KS3 National Curriculum guidelines** and uses the **SMART Activate Oxford Programme** as its basis. It is taught during **Years 7, 8 and 9** with Biology, Chemistry and Physics being taught under the umbrella of '**Science'** in Years 7 and 8 only; students are taught in tutor groups. This is taught over 8 periods per fortnight. The rationale here is to aid their integration into secondary school following their progression from KS2 to KS3, which is a big jump for many given the low-profile Science receives, in some schools, at KS2.

In Year 9, students are split into ability bands and are taught 'separate' **Biology**, **Chemistry** and **Physics** by subject specialists. Each subject is taught for 4 periods per fortnight in **Year 9** so giving a total of 12 periods of '**Science'** (going to 5 periods per fortnight in Years 10 & 11). This curriculum design enables us to integrate teaching certain GCSE topics **at KS3** (in Year 9) and continue the curriculum progression into full GCSE at **KS4** in **Years 10** & **11**. This is done by developing topics (first taught at KS3) further by way of building on the detail of, and making visible, the connections between the various topics, which encourages students to see the big picture through the cross-curricular connections.

Topics covered are:

YEAR 7
Biology
- Cells
- Structure and function of body systems
- Reproduction

Chemistry
- Particles and their behaviour
- Elements, atoms and compounds
- Reactions
- Acids and alkalis

Physics
- Forces
- Sound
- Light
- Space

YEAR 8
Biology
- Health and lifestyle
- Biological processes
- Ecosystems and Adaptation
- Inheritance

Chemistry
- The periodic table
- Separation techniques
- Metals and acids
- The Earth

Physics
- Electricity and magnetism
- Energy
- Motion and pressure

YEAR 9
Biology
- Cell structure and transport
- Cell division
- Organisation and the digestive system
- Organising animals and plants
- Communicable diseases
- Preventing and treating diseases
- Non-communicable diseases

Chemistry
- Atomic structure
- Structure and bonding
- Chemical changes
- Crude Oil and Fuels
- The periodic table

Physics
- Conservation and dissipation of energy
- Energy transfer by heating
- Molecules and matter
- Wave properties
- Electromagnetic waves
- Energy resources

Students will be placed in one of five sets based upon their Year 7 and 8 test and examination performances, with sets 1-3 being parallel sets (top band) made up of the top 60% of the year group and sets 4 and 5 are parallel sets (lower band) made up from the remaining students. **All students will cover the same material in Year 9.**

Assessment Schedule

Formal assessment is by means of end-of-topic tests and an end-of-Year 8 examination. The assessment data will be used to put students into broad ability bands for their Biology, Chemistry and Physics sets in Year 9.
The end-of-year 9 examination is used to determine the students KS4 sets in Year 10 (going from 5 sets in Year 9 to 6 sets in Year 10).

Support materials

Students have access to bespoke electronic textbooks for their Science courses on www.kerboodle.com, together with other resources on the school Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) via MS Teams. Additionally, students have access to high quality teaching PowerPoints, simulations and a myriad of quizzes with automatic marking on Educake.co.uk and www.senecalearning.com and www.cognito.org To help develop our students' examination techniques, students are regularly afforded the opportunity to complete past examination-style questions (on SATS-style papers). Many parents ask about any additional books that may be useful; we recommend the following:

- **CGP - KS3 Science Workbook (Higher)**
- **CGP - KS3 Science Revision and practice (Higher)**

These can be purchased from WHSmith's stores, Waterstones, Amazon etc or directly from www.cgpbooks.co.uk.

Mr F Ahmed
Head of Science | Sep 2026