A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

The Chemistry course at Prior Pursglove College is based on the AQA Chemistry Specification. This leads on naturally from the Additional Science and Chemistry courses studied at GCSE level, and enables students to maintain continuity in their learning.

WHAT IS CHEMISTRY?

Chemistry is the science of the material world. It is concerned with the structure and interaction of all the matter in the universe – whether animal, vegetable or mineral. It offers, therefore, unlimited scope to people who want to understand and contribute to further developments in our use and conservation of the materials around us. Chemistry occupies a central position among the basic sciences. On the one hand it is linked with Physics through Physical Chemistry and on the other with Biology through Biochemistry. Life depends basically on chemical reactions. Chemistry is therefore fundamental to Physiology and to Medicine. It plays an important part in the development of such sciences as Geology and it underlies many branches of technology such as atomic energy, metallurgy, fuel technology and chemical engineering.

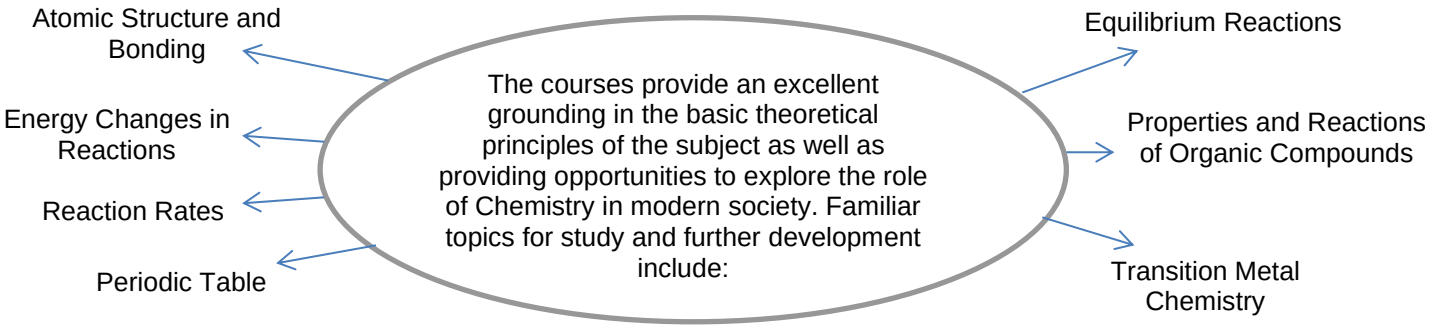
WHY SHOULD I STUDY CHEMISTRY?

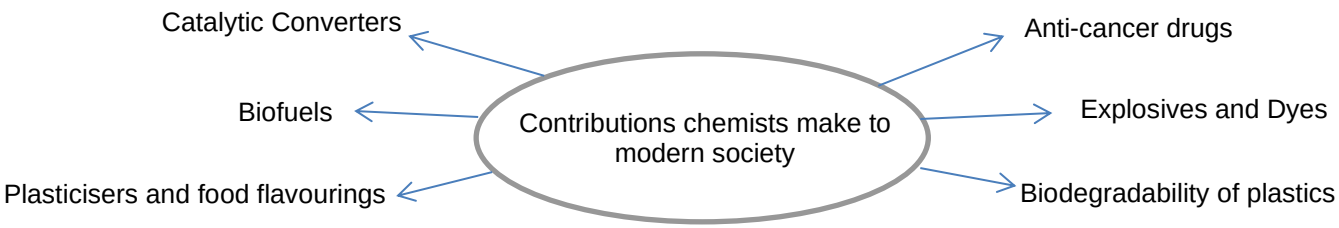
What any modern employer needs at the professional level is a person with a capable and critical mind. The mental discipline and training which a Chemistry degree imposes is of value in any further employment. As well as in the chemical industry, chemistry graduates are successful in other professions such as accountancy, marketing and taxation. Clearly an important route to such varied and interesting careers is via A Level Chemistry courses. Although there are plenty of topics to keep a student busy, the workload is not unreasonable. There is plenty of time for the enjoyment of other pursuits and we value and appreciate the student with well-developed outside interests. At Prior Pursglove College we hope to provide a sound education in the subject as well as a solid and reliable stepping stone to higher things.

USEFUL SKILLS & INTERESTS

The most important requirements for Chemistry are a real interest in the subject and a determination to work hard and develop good study skills.

COURSE STRUCTURE & CONTENT





ASSESSMENT

The A Level qualification at the end of year two comprises of four written papers. Around 15% of the total marks will be for questions based on the understanding and interpretation of practical work. Each student will also be awarded a pass/fail assessment for laboratory skills based on their laboratory practicals over the two years (they are teacher assessed). The laboratory skills assessment does not contribute to the final A Level grade.

COURSE COMMITMENT

Students will be expected to work independently, outside the classroom, for about four hours per week. This will allow time to complete assignments set in class as well as to review current work regularly and revise for the external examinations.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

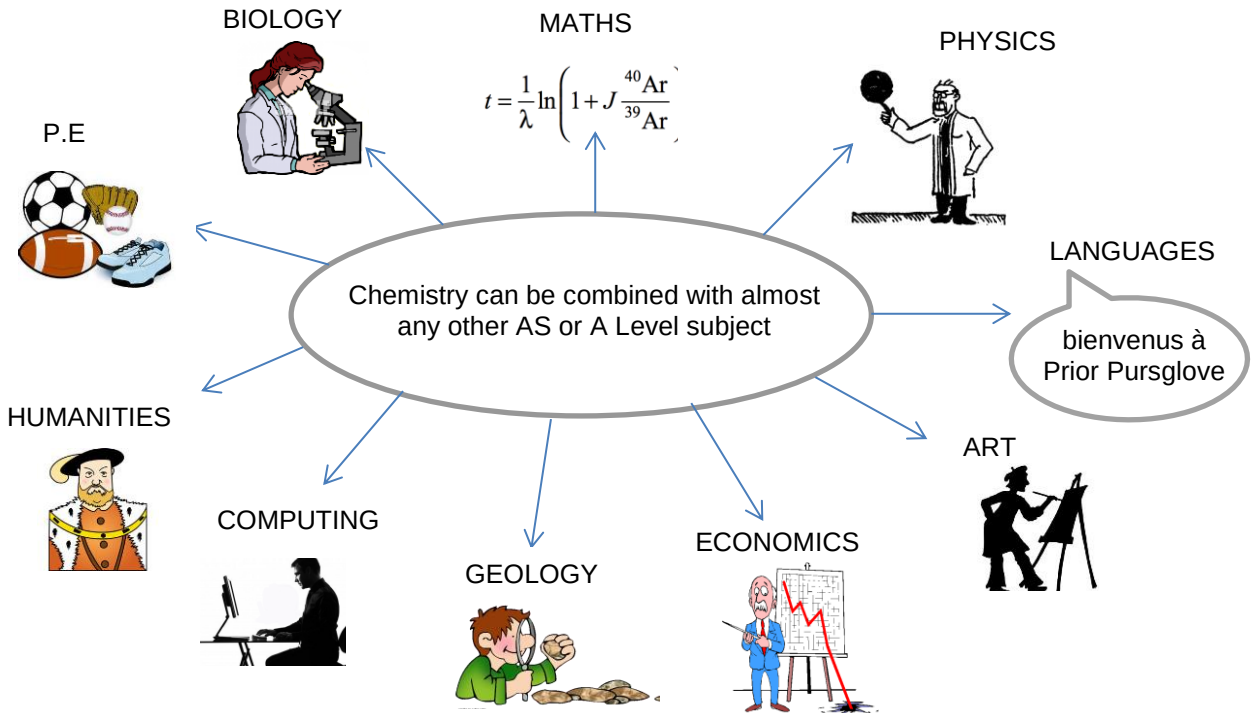
For entrance on to this course you will need to meet the college standard entry requirements for Advanced Level study of 5 GCSE passes (grades 4 - 9) including a minimum of a grade 6 in Combined Science or Triple Science (specifically Chemistry), Maths and English and a G Score of 5.6. To work out your G Score please go to the college website and click on the 16 – 18 tab and then entry requirements. If you are not sure how to work this out please get in touch and we will be more than happy to help.

COURSE COSTS

You will need a scientific calculator which can be purchased for less than £10 at college or any stationers. We would strongly recommend that students purchase their own textbook in addition to the one provided by college. Staff will happily provide guidance on this purchase

PROGRESSION ROUTES

The United Kingdom has a large and flourishing chemical industry and chemistry graduates are needed at all levels, from research to the technical development, marketing and managerial areas of this industry. Chemistry graduates are also in demand for their specialist knowledge in many other areas of employment. While Chemistry is essential for medical and many paramedical courses, students can go on to careers in Law, Business, Computing and Languages as well as the more obvious engineering and scientific fields.



Some of the students who studied this course at Prior Pursglove College progressed on to:

- Aberdeen University – **Chemical Engineering**
- Aston University – **Chemical Engineering**
- Bradford University – **Biomedical sciences / Clinical Sciences (Medicine Foundation)**
- Bristol University - **Medicine**
- Brunel University – **Aviation Engineering with Pilot Studies**
- Cambridge University - **Natural Sciences**
- Durham University – **Biomedical Sciences / Chemistry (Industrial)**
- Hull University– **Zoology**
- Lancaster University – **Physics**
- Leeds University - **Aeronautical & Aerospace Engineering**
- Loughborough University – **Chemical Engineering**
- Manchester Metropolitan University – **Biology with Study Abroad**
- Newcastle University - **Chemical Engineering / Chemical Engineering with Process Control / Medicine / Biomedical Sciences**
- Northumbria University – **Biomedical Sciences**
- Sunderland University - **Biopharmaceutical Science / Pharmacy**
- Teesside University – **Chemistry / Psychology / Biological Sciences / Chemical Engineering**
- University College London – **Medicine**
- University of Brighton – **Mechanical Engineering**
- York University – **Chemistry**

STUDENT COMMENTS

“I found A level Chemistry fascinating, but at times a challenging course and I think that is what makes it so rewarding. The level of support and teaching from the Chemistry Department has been outstanding. I would encourage anyone with an interest in science to do Chemistry at Prior Pursglove College”.

“Although Chemistry can be a challenge it is a very fun and interesting subject. The staff support you as much as humanly possible and go above and beyond for every student”.

“The challenge of studying A level Chemistry has allowed me to further develop my academic ability. It is a tough subject but with hard work and a will to do well, Chemistry is a very rewarding subject”.

“Chemistry is challenging but the staff at Prior are really supportive and provide all of the resources we need in order to succeed”

“Studying Chemistry at A level is full of challenges. The subject calls for true resilience at times but the challenges you face will keep you interested and help your realise your potential”.

“Chemistry is a challenging subject so should only be taken if you are prepared to work for it, but the college provides good resources and great teachers to make Chemistry a satisfying subject to learn”.

“A lot of content to remember but quite rewarding when you finally understand the “big picture”, especially if you can see the interesting side”.

“A challenging course that requires competency and commitment consistently. Putting in the effort and determination is what gives you success in Chemistry. It was the most fun course of my time at college”.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Full course specifications can be found at http://www.aqa.org.uk

If you require further information please contact the college.