Chemistry Pathway 1

Course description:

From the clothes we wear to the air we breathe, from novel materials such as Kevlar, the plastic for bullet proof vests, to a deeper understanding of the environmental impact of our modern lives, the science of chemistry influences our lives in an uncountable number of ways. This course is designed to raise the awareness of pupils for the role of chemistry in both our everyday lives and wider society. The emphasis is on the ways in which chemistry is used – and the work that chemists do. It concentrates on the frontiers of chemistry and contains a significant practical work component.

Qualifications required:

- In line with the entry requirements for a Pathway 1 subject.
- Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or grade 7-6 in GCSE Combined Science.
- Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature and Maths

Aims of the course:

We work to the OCR Chemistry 'A' specification, also called 'Salter's Chemistry' developed in conjunction with the University of York. The course contains a larger practical component than many more ordinary courses. The course is delivered through 'storylines' – themes such as the 'Elements of Life' and 'The Ozone Story", which allow the learner to delve into areas of chemistry driven by curiosity and form strong links between areas of study.

Future prospects:

- Students with A level Chemistry may choose to continue studying within this field. Degree courses in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering in particular give rise to good starting salaries with significant opportunities within pharmaceutical, petrochemical, health, environmental and manufacturing sectors.
- Chemistry is a key A level for those wishing to pursue a career in medicine, dentistry or related areas.
- The transferable skills gained on the course are recognised and will benefit those who wish to study Law, Journalism, Accountancy or other financial sectors.

Student feedback:

"There are more independent practicals to develop skills."
"I can see the relevance of the subject to everyday life."

Subject Teachers:

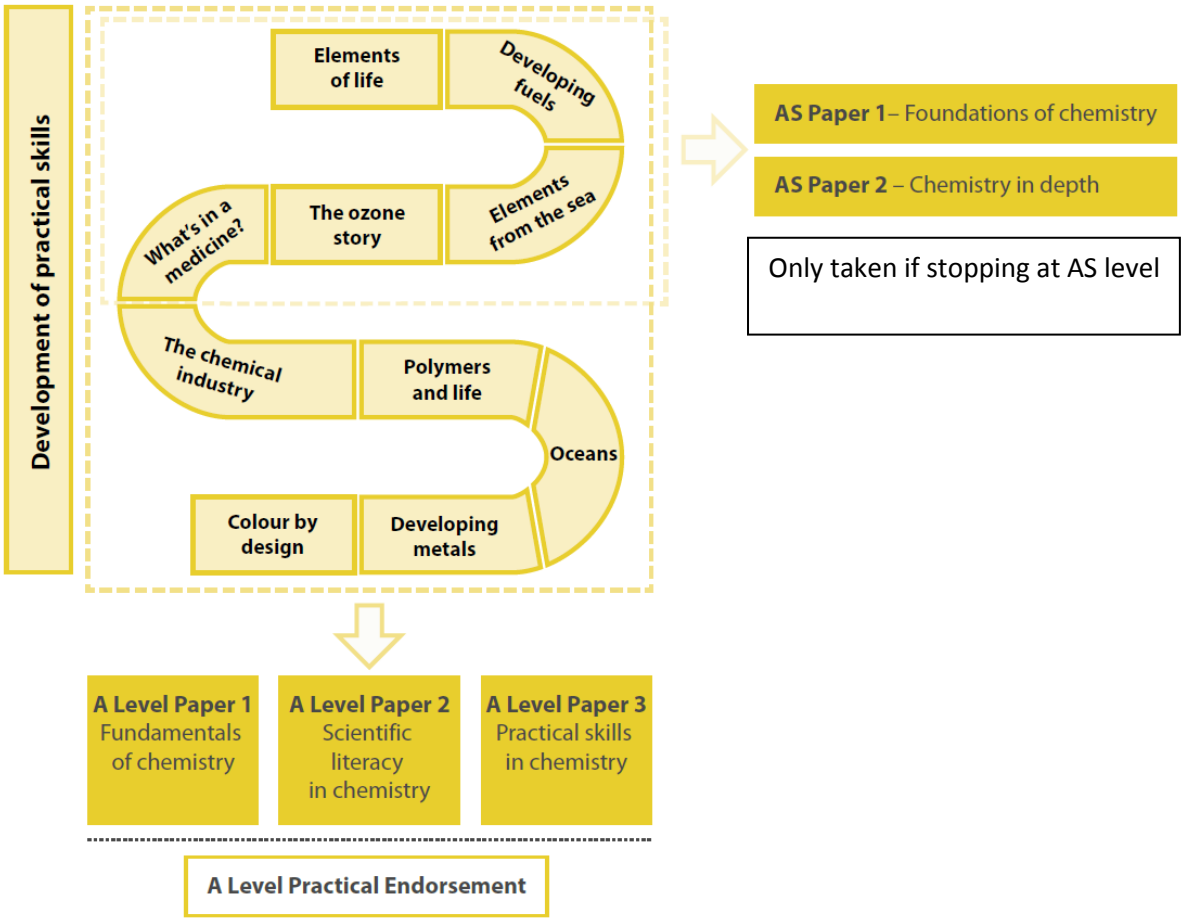
Mr Carlisle (Head of Chemistry), and Mr Stanger

Chemistry

Features of the course:

- Explanations of the chemistry involved in global topics
- Opportunities to analyse data obtained through experiments
- How science works
- Energy and its impact on the environment
- Health and Safety issues
- Social and Cultural issues

In OCR B there are 10 units (see names below), 5 in each year. Practical skill is developed throughout. AS papers do not count towards the full A level. A level is 3 papers (see bottom of diagram)



Methods of Assessment:

All aspects of the A level are assessed by external examination. The three terminal A level papers are 100% synoptic. Paper 1 (37% of A level) contains a mixture of multiple choice, short and longer answer questions. Paper 2 (37% of A level) includes some pre-release material and longer answer questions than Paper 1. Paper 3 (26% of A level) tests the theory of all the practical skills (it is not a practical exam. There is a separate "Practical Endorsement" certificate (which carries no UCAS points). This is assessed throughout the course on key practical activities by your teacher and is not required to pass the A level.