



## Coloma Convent Girls' School

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Headteacher: Mrs Elizabeth Englefield

Chief Executive: Mr David Garrido

### Science Department Profile

The Science Department at Coloma Convent Girls' School currently has 12 teachers and 4 technicians. Members of the department are keen to share good practice and are friendly and supportive of one another. All teachers have the opportunity to teach across the ability range, up to and including A Level. There are several Sixth Form Science Ambassadors who assist the department at school events and promote the subject across the school. Science is the largest faculty in the school at A level with typically 7 groups between Biology, Chemistry & Physics, run for each year group. We are also planning to introduce the Applied Science L3 BTEC in 2022.

The department is housed in three main laboratory classrooms. Each room has an interactive whiteboard and display boards for student's work. There is also an office and Prep Room for Science teachers, with access to computer facilities. We are very fortunate to have a team of excellent technicians who support our lessons and students. Our labs are well stocked and maintained. We also use Google Classroom for blended learning along with a variety of prepared digital materials and shared Schemes of Work. Colleagues share resources and co-plan lessons to ensure workload is managed effectively. We are committed to enabling the Professional Development of our colleagues.

#### Key Stage 3

In Year 7 all students are taught in mixed ability classes. Years 8 & 9 are taught in sets according to ability. Students have three 50-minute Science lessons per week, one of each specialism. The department uses the Collins KS3 Science resources. Students are assessed at the end of each topic. We run a Science Club for KS3 which is very popular.

#### Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, students are taught in sets according to ability. They begin their GCSE course mid-way through Year 9. Students elect to follow either the AQA GCSE Triple Science course (9 lessons per week) or the AQA Combined Science: Trilogy course (6 lessons per week) from the beginning of Year 10. We use a mixture of formative and summative assessments to monitor the progress of our students.

#### Key Stage 5

Students follow the AQA A Level courses. Classes are usually shared between two teachers and receive 6 periods per week (5 hours) of direct teaching. We do not enter students for AS at the end of Year 12. Over the two years, students are expected to complete 12 required practical investigations, to assess their practical skills against the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC) in order to achieve the practical endorsement. STEM subjects are the most popular in our Sixth form and a large cohort of students progress to STEM degree courses. We aim to enrich and support the course through extra-curricular competitions and visits wherever possible.