

Environmental Science

Environmental Science is a combination of Geography and Biology, it is all about the natural environment and how human beings interact with the natural environment. You will learn about living environments (ecosystems), Earth's resources and sustainability. If you want a subject to compliment Geography and/or Biology or if you are interested in the future of our planet then this could be the course for you.

What is the aim of this course?

The aim of this course is to develop curiosity, interest and enthusiasm for the world we live in. This will be achieved by investigating topical issues that relate to our natural environments and how human beings interact with those natural environments.

What will I be learning about on this course?

Environmental Science allows students to learn about our living environments - ecosystems, biodiversity and interdependence. It also allows students to gain understanding about planet Earth and the resources it contains, this is broken down into – geosphere (rocks and minerals), hydrosphere (oceans, rivers, and other bodies of water), biosphere (biofuels and agriculture) and atmosphere (the composition of air and the greenhouse effect). Environmental Science also studies sustainability - how to meet the needs of the present without damaging the environment for future generations.

What skills will I develop?

This course will allow students to develop many different skills which will be transferrable to other subjects and to the world of work, some of these skills include: Problem- solving, investigating and enquiry skills, planning and carrying out practical experiments and fieldwork, processing data/information, presentation skills, effective communication, literacy and numeracy (*Maths is used throughout this course*).

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

The course is taught through a variety of classroom teaching methods including the use of ICT, co-operative learning and discussion based tasks as well as practical work. There will also be opportunities for fieldwork and visits from speakers to enhance the learning experiences of the students.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will focus on knowledge and understanding of the key scientific concepts, planning and carrying out practical investigations/fieldwork as well as presenting and evaluating findings. These will be monitored through the use of class tests, written reports and presentations.

What are the homework requirements?

Regular homework plays an important part in revision of key words and concepts learnt and allows for reinforcement of classwork.

What might this course lead to in the future?

This course allows progression into National 4/5 Environmental Science in S4, which in turn can lead on to Higher Environmental Science in S5/S6.