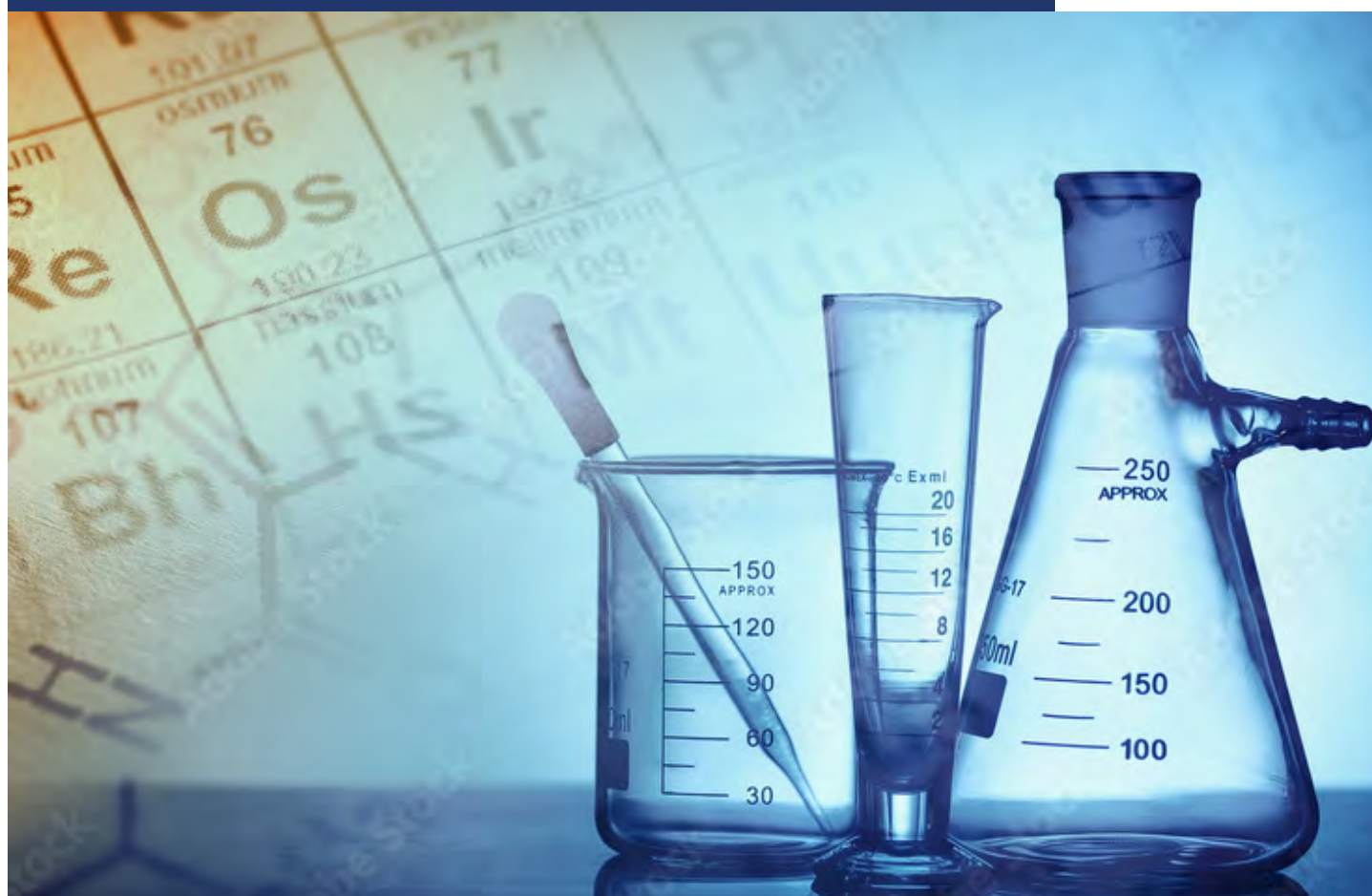


SPRING 2024

SCIENCE



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NEW: STEPPING UP TO LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE

CODE 9695

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Aimed at newly appointed Heads of Science and those that aspire to a leadership role within Science, this practical course has been developed to examine the complex tasks faced by leaders of Science and the strategies necessary for success.

These are exciting and challenging times to lead in Secondary Science. Science faculties have the most rewarding subject to teach, and benefit from many developments and resources for teaching on social media. However, Science can be a more difficult subject to lead than others within a secondary school with a complex curriculum offer, shortages of qualified subject specialists, health and safety responsibilities and practical work with large teams and non-teaching staff to lead.

Delegates will take away practical strategies to enable them to hit the ground running, enabling them to keep on top of the day-to-day issues whilst developing their team and a shared strategic vision.

PROGRAMME

Getting Started: Analysing the challenges of Science leadership 10.00 – 10.45am

- What are the main duties and responsibilities as a leader in Science
- Identifying the challenges your department is facing
- Get to know your team and build quick relationships

Discussion: coffee break 10.45 – 11.00am

Exploring the behaviours of an effective, inspiring and motivating leader 11.00 – 12.00pm

- Exploring the different skills needed to be personally excellent as a teacher, effective as a manager and inspirational as a leader
- Exploring the behaviours of successful leaders
- Understanding your natural style of leadership
- Exploring different styles of leadership and understanding when each style is effective and what the pitfalls might be
- Accountability: Setting the standards for high performance
- The power of your strategic plan and curriculum
- Using Assessment: Monitoring & Tracking

Building your Team and Managing people with confidence 12.00 – 12.40pm

- How to build your team ethos
- Understanding when to manage and when to lead to get the best out of your team
- Managing the ways in which we communicate with our team
- Exploring different styles of leadership – from being brave enough to delegate or have the conviction to simply tell people what to do, and what the middle ground looks like
- Strategies to build relationships with all those around you to ensure you have support from all levels
- Getting everyone on board with your vision

Lunch and informal discussion 12.40 – 1.40pm

Effective Leadership in Teaching and Learning: High Expectations, High Challenge, High Reward 1.40 – 2.35pm

- Strategies for establishing, maintaining and promoting high quality teaching, learning and assessment in Languages
- Supporting your team with innovative and engaging teaching
- The importance of delegating and utilising the strengths of your staff
- Using data effectively for monitoring and feedback, to lead to outstanding student outcomes
- Get a “buzz” around Science through enrichment provision

Discussion: afternoon tea 2.35 – 2.40pm

Dealing with challenging issues 2.40 – 3.20pm

- Monitoring staff performance to ensure outstanding student outcomes across the department
- Challenging underperformance, sustaining excellence and maintaining standards
- How to best support staff professional development in line with departmental needs
- Dealing with difficult conversations

Selling yourself: How to get the job 3.20 – 3.40pm

- Alignment of values
- Writing your application and letter
- The interview day
- What might be involved and asked: exploring your preparation

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 13 March 2024

Thursday 20 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Prishilla Narindar is currently Deputy head of Faculty and Science lead at Henry Cort College. With over 10 years' experience in KS3 and KS4 science curriculum delivery in mainstream education and private tuition, she has led the local Science GCSE collaboration development group that partners with 8 schools and colleges. She has also successfully led active learning, cognitive load association and assessment workshops whilst coaching PGCE and ITT students for local partnerships.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Newly appointed Heads of Science
- Aspiring leaders in Science
- Newly appointed subject leaders in Science
- Newly appointed key stage leaders in Science
- TLR holders in Science
- Heads of Science Faculties

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Examine how to set the parameters for a Science department to flourish
- Consider the importance of strategies to align your department with whole-school priorities
- Explore the importance and power of your strategic and curriculum planning
- Discuss and highlight the role of assessment and monitoring of pupil progress
- Introduction to middleleadership in schools, with real examples drawn upon by the course leader
- Discuss the process of applying, interviewing, and securing your place as a Head of Science

LEADERSHIP OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF A SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

CODE 9541

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Leading in Science can be both exciting and challenging. However, it's no secret that leading a Science department comes with unique complexities. The curriculum is intricate and there are shortages of qualified subject specialists and you'll bear the responsibility of ensuring health and safety compliance and overseeing practical work involving large teams and non-teaching staff.

In this new and updated course, we'll consider what it takes to achieve excellence in a Science department and the pivotal role of the Head of Science in maintaining this excellence. Delegates will take away practical and actionable strategies on how to tackle day-to-day challenges, develop the team and work towards a shared strategic vision.

Whether you are currently a Head of Science or aspire to hold such a position, this course is designed to cater to your interests and needs, unlocking the tools and insights to lead with confidence and success.

PROGRAMME

Leadership and Vision

10.00 – 10.30am

Unleashing Leadership Brilliance in Science Departments

- Explore key leadership qualities and skills tailored for a Science Department
- Practical applications and tips to elevate your department's performance
- Decipher the significance of vision and its pivotal role in values, strategy, and execution
- Guided session on crafting a compelling vision for your team, enriched with real-world examples

Effective Techniques to Drive Department Improvement

10.30 – 11.20am

Journey to Outstanding: Navigating School Inspections

- Set your sights on excellence with insights into 'outstanding' practices
- Dive into research-backed, achievable tips for departmental improvement
- Elevate teaching and learning with a focus on top-end students, feedback strategies, higher-order thinking, and more
- Master the art of staff recruitment: asking the right questions, identifying excellence in interviews and lessons

Discussion: coffee break

11.20 – 11.40am

Leading Outstanding Teaching and Learning

11.40 – 12.40pm

Crafting a Legacy of Excellence in Science Education

- Review research on outstanding teaching and learning
- Demystify preconceptions, explore student self-regulation, and balance with explicit instruction
- Delve into memory enhancement techniques: retrieval practice, spaced retrieval, interleaved practice
- Unlock the secrets of effective practical work and scientific vocabulary
- Transform your scheme of work into an outstanding educational roadmap
- Harness the power of assessment data for targeted intervention

Lunch and informal discussion

12.40 – 1.40pm

Staff Development

1.40 – 3.00pm

Nurturing Excellence at Every Level

- Embrace the importance of continuous staff development
- Tailored tips for various staff experience levels, ensuring proactive growth
- Elevate science technicians with practical strategies
- Master the art of effective department communication and meetings
- Structure feedback conversations for positive change
- Create an outstanding department handbook, incorporating safety, ICT, SEND, and teacher consistency

Discussion: afternoon tea

3.00 – 3.10pm

Optimal Time Management

3.10 – 3.30pm

Efficiency Unleashed in Science Departments

- Navigate time effectively using the Eisenhower Matrix
- Embrace the art of delegation even in challenging circumstances

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 27 March 2024

Tuesday 09 July 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dr Stephen Belding is an accomplished teacher and Head of Chemistry at Rugby School. He attended St John's College, Oxford University, where he earned a degree in Chemistry (MChem) and a DPhil in Computational Electrochemistry. With a teaching career that commenced in 2012, Stephen has successfully instructed across five distinct exam specifications at three highly regarded schools in the UK. In 2022, he concluded his MEd research focusing on inspection reports and strategies for school improvement.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Current Heads of Science Departments
- Aspiring Heads of Science
- Those wishing to take on a leadership role within a Science Department
- Senior leaders responsible for Science

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Consider what makes a Science department excellent, and the role of the Head of Science in achieving excellence.
- Look at ways in which a Head of Science can develop and improve teaching and learning within the department.
- Enhance your ability to recruit, lead, support and nurture teachers and technicians in the department.
- Reflect on strategies for dealing with the challenges and making the most of the opportunities presented by a Head of Science position.
- Discuss the application of research-based techniques for effective time management and delegation.

NEW: A-LEVEL BIOLOGY: IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT & ACHIEVEMENT IN LARGE, MIXED ABILITY CLASSES

CODE 9648

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This is a new, bespoke course formulated to tackle the demands and challenges of large class sizes of mixed-ability students at A-level, which, given the educational climate are becoming the norm. The course is relevant for both new and experienced teachers and will introduce you to strategies to identify the strengths and weaknesses your learners, as well as practical suggestions on how to best address these.

The course will cover ideas on assessment regimes to identify learners who require additional support and the types of support that would be most effective, as well as approaches to skills development such as independent-flipped learning, extended writing e.g., strategies for successfully tackling the essay on Paper 3 and how to effectively incorporate practical skills into teaching. You will have the opportunity to network with like-minded colleagues and; you will leave with a wide range of ideas that have proven successful on A-level Biology programmes, all whilst considering the workload constraints prevalent in modern teaching.

PROGRAMME

Assessment in A-Level Biology

TIME 10.00 – 10.45am

- Embedding assessment into a programme of study: strategies for integrating assessment methods seamlessly into the curriculum
- Structure of assessments: the formats and types of assessments used in A-Level Biology
- Effective ways to provide feedback to students and how they can use it for improvement
- Methods for tracking and monitoring student progress throughout the course

Discussion: coffee break

10.45 – 11.05am

Types of Support for Different Learners

11.05 – 11.50am

- Strategies to reinforce and consolidate learning
- Effective use of targeted sessions to provide extra help to struggling students
- Independent study with supervision
- Group sessions to address common challenges and topics
- Creating exam question packs to prepare students for exams

Flipped Learning and Metacognition

11.50 – 12.30pm

- Setting the scene: introduction to flipped learning and its benefits
- Encouraging students to self-assess and evaluate their understanding
- Utilising virtual learning environments for flipped learning

Lunch and informal discussion

12.30 – 1.30pm

Skills Development including Essay Skills

1.30 – 2.30pm

- Embedding skills in the curriculum: incorporating essential skills such as mathematics and extended writing using appropriate resources
- Use of VLE resources for skill development and to enhance students' skill sets
- Integrating skill practice within assessments
- Effective strategies to tackle the essay on paper 3: techniques for excelling in the essay component of the course

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.30 – 2.45pm

Practical Skills in the Curriculum

2.45 – 3.30pm

- Understanding the compulsory practical components of the course
- Exploring additional practical activities to enhance learning
- Using past papers to prepare students for practical assessments

LOCATION/DATE

London

Thursday 16 November 2023

COURSE LEADER

Nicola Manning has 33 years' experience of teaching A-level Biology and has attained a Silver Pearson's National Teaching award to recognise her successes. She currently teaches 6 A-level Biology classes, with an average class size of 22. Her cohorts regularly attain above the national averages on all benchmarks, her advice is supported by real-life outcomes. She has attained ALPS grade 2 for 5 consecutive years and been mentioned in ALPS reports. She has completed a research project for the Ipswich Opportunity Fund on the positive impacts of Flipped Learning on developing students' independence and life-long learning skills and is committed to raising the attainment of all learners.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- New & Experienced Teachers of A-Level Biology
- ECTs in Biology
- Heads of Science

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Raising attainment for learners in A-level Biology at all boundaries A*/B, A*-C and A*-E
- Take away strategies of how to promote metacognition and independent learning skills in students.
- Developing a VLE, which effectively supports outcomes.
- Build into your teaching, strategies with proven success to tackle the skills requirements of the A-level Biology syllabus.
- Take away a range of innovative approaches to tackle the extended writing component of the course.
- Foster positive relationships with students and promote self-reflection.
- Address the marking demands of larger groups.

NEW: AQA A-LEVEL BIOLOGY: PREPARING STUDENTS FOR EXAM SUCCESS IN 2025 AND BEYOND

CODE **9649**

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This brand-new course for all teachers of AQA A-Level Biology will explore how you can turn the mistakes made in previous exam series into an opportunity for positive change moving forward, fully preparing your students for success in the year ahead and beyond.

This interactive course will support and challenge teachers in equal measures. You will leave with a thorough overview of the main lessons to be learnt from previous examinations and a wide range of ideas, methods and approaches to prepare students to maximise their potential in the 2025 exams.

Emphasis will be made on the demands of the exams that are not met as well as they could be, and the implications this has for your A-Level teaching and learning.

PROGRAMME

The Exam - Reflections and Approaches

- Feedback from recent exams: what is it essential to be aware of?
- The main factors that affect examination success in all 3 papers and the challenges experienced by candidates
- Deep-diving problem questions from the exam papers
- How to engage students in the content of the course, and how to maximise their focus on what brings the most reward in examinations
- Reflections on recent mark schemes and what this means moving forward
- Starting to make a plan of action- what should we do? How should we do it?

Discussion: coffee break

A Focus on Comprehension and Essay Questions

- How do students answer compared to what the exam board want to see
- Strategies to decipher and meet the demands of the questions
- Managing synopticity
- AO3 clinic- ways to fix the AO3 success rate in your school

Lunch and informal discussion

Short Answer Headaches

- Dealing with data in the manner that A-Level Biology expects
- Working with new and innovative methods to prepare students for data demands
- Deciphering where marks are lost
- Working on strategies to minimise the silly mistakes

Discussion: afternoon tea

Moving Forward and Maximising Success in 2025 and Beyond

- Summary of what we have learnt
- Producing a plan of action to maximise student success in 2025
- Specific lessons to be learnt and how to prevent them from happening again
- Ensuring whole department success - managing staff and developing a progressive teaching culture that organically learns and improves

TIME

10.00 - 11.00am

11.00 - 11.20am

11.20 - 12.20pm

12.20 - 1.20pm

1.20 - 2.20pm

2.20 - 2.30pm

2.30 - 3.30pm

LOCATION/DATE

London

Thursday 27 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dr Harjit Singh is an experienced teacher and senior examiner for A-Level Biology. She has taught and examined A-Level Biology for over 25 years, IB Biology for 8 years as well as BTEC Applied Science. She is a published author of the Key Skills and Knowledge Booster Biology and co-author of Key Skills and Knowledge Booster BTEC Science Applied and Vocational courses. She has presented many biology courses for teachers, student revision conferences and online web conferences. She is also involved in presenting international IB student revision courses.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Teachers of AQA A-Level Biology
- Heads of Department
- Academic leads for Biology
- Prospective or new teachers of AQA A-Level Biology

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Understand the main lessons to be learnt from previous examinations
- Gain an informed overview of key areas of concern
- Learn new and innovative ways to deliver areas that target these areas of concern
- Experience and try out novel pedagogy in the classroom
- Produce a strategic approach to maximise student success in 2025 and beyond

NEW: AQA A-LEVEL BIOLOGY: ACHIEVING OUTSTANDING RESULTS IN PAPER 1

CODE 9650

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This excellent new course is designed for AQA A-Level Biology teachers aiming to enhance their expertise in preparing students for success in Paper 1

The course will delve into key strategies for understanding the exam structure, tackling various question types effectively, providing an intense, advanced, focus on deconstructing questions from paper 1 and deciphering example responses.

There will also be a focus on pedagogy for paper 1, but most importantly on preparing students for the exam. This course will provide a focus on raising a grade B to a grade A/A* and how to do this with specific topics from paper 1.

The course will include a section on exam tactics and techniques, with what examiners need to see and how to get your students to do this.

PROGRAMME

Examining the Components of Paper 1 and Embedding Effective Pedagogy 10.00 – 10.30am

- Examining the specific requirements of paper 1 – analysing the assessment objectives and their implications
- Understanding the weighting and different sections in the exam
- Identifying the key challenges in this paper and the key skills required for success
- Reviewing the most recent exam – learning from previous mistakes
- Developing smart and effective pedagogy that maximises attainment

Biological Molecules 10.30 – 11.10am

- Developing engaging teaching strategies for complex concepts
- Identifying, addressing and creating specific lesson ideas for challenging content
- How this is likely to be examined – the question types
- Past questions to inform your teaching

Discussion: coffee break

11.10 – 11.30am

Cells 11.30 – 12.10pm

- Tackling the problematic areas in Cells
- Building student confidence in dealing with difficult topics
- How Cells are likely to be examined
- Past questions to inform your teaching

Lunch and informal discussion

12.10 – 1.10pm

Organisms Exchange Substances with their Environment 1.10 – 1.50pm

- Lesson ideas – integrating real-life examples for better comprehension
- Developing teaching strategies for complex concepts
- How this is likely to be examined – the question types
- Past questions to inform your teaching

Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms 1.50 – 2.30pm

- Effective strategies to navigate tricky areas
- Grappling with complex topics – ensure success with your cohort
- Understanding the anticipated examination structure for the topic
- Drawing insights from past examination questions to enhance your teaching methods

Ensuring Success in Extended Writing Questions 2.30 – 3.10pm

- A look at sample responses and why they have been marked, how they have been marked
- Developing an approach to marking that enables progression of all students
- Marking task: a short, interactive session which involves marking sample responses
- Good habits when marking extended writing questions

Discussion: afternoon tea

3.10 – 3.15pm

Effective Exam Preparation Strategies 3.15 – 3.45pm

- Developing comprehensive revision plans for students
- Implementing formative assessment strategies throughout the course
- Exploring resources and tools for effective exam preparation
- Addressing common pitfalls and challenges in the lead-up to the exam

LOCATION/DATE

London

Thursday 21 March 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dr Harjit Singh is an experienced teacher and senior examiner for A-Level Biology. She has taught and examined A-Level Biology for over 25 years, IB Biology for 8 years as well as BTEC Applied Science. She is a published author of the Key Skills and Knowledge Booster Biology and co-author of Key Skills and Knowledge Booster BTEC Science Applied and Vocational courses. She has presented many biology courses for teachers, student revision conferences and online web conferences. She is also involved in presenting international IB student revision courses.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Experienced AQA A-Level Biology teachers
- Teachers new to AQA A-Level Biology
- Heads of Biology

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Gain a deep understanding of how to deliver topics from paper 1 with a focus and purpose to improve attainment
- Increase the number of students with potential for the highest grades in this paper
- Explore many topics from paper 1 with suggestions on how to maintain focus on the end attainment
- Develop a teaching philosophy that is informed, targeted and effective, with proven strategies for teaching challenging content
- Enhance your ability to guide students in effective exam preparation
- Gain resources that you can take away for immediate use in the classroom

NEW: AQA A-LEVEL BIOLOGY: ACHIEVING OUTSTANDING RESULTS IN PAPER 2

CODE 9651

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This excellent new course is designed for AQA A-Level Biology teachers aiming to enhance their expertise in preparing students for success in Paper 2

The course will delve into key strategies for understanding the exam structure, tackling various question types effectively, providing an intense, advanced, focus on deconstructing questions from paper 1 and deciphering example responses.

There will also be a focus on pedagogy for paper 2, but most importantly on preparing students for the exam. This course will provide a focus on raising a grade B to a grade A/A* and how to do this with specific topics from paper 2.

The course will include a section on exam tactics and techniques, with what examiners need to see and how to get your students to do this.

PROGRAMME

Examining the Components of Paper 2 and Embedding Effective Pedagogy 10.00 – 10.30am

- Examining the specific requirements of paper 2 – analysing the assessment objectives and their implications
- Understanding the weighting and different sections in the exam
- Identifying the key challenges in this paper and the key skills required for success
- Reviewing the most recent exam – learning from previous mistakes
- Developing smart and effective pedagogy that maximises attainment

Energy Transfers in and between Organisms 10.30 – 11.10am

- Developing engaging teaching strategies for complex concepts
- Identifying, addressing and creating specific lesson ideas for challenging content
- How this is likely to be examined – the question types
- Past questions to inform your teaching

Discussion: coffee break 11.10 – 11.30am

Organisms Respond to Changes in their Internal and External Environments 11.30 – 12.10pm

- Tackling the problematic areas in this topic
- Building student confidence in dealing with difficult topics
- How Cells are likely to be examined
- Past questions to inform your teaching

Lunch and informal discussion 12.10 – 1.10pm

Genetics, Populations, Evolution and Eco-systems 1.10 – 1.50pm

- Lesson ideas – integrating real-life examples for better comprehension
- Developing teaching strategies for complex concepts
- How this is likely to be examined – the question types
- Past questions to inform your teaching

The Control of Gene Expression 1.50 – 2.30pm

- Effective strategies to navigate tricky areas
- Grappling with complex topics – ensure success with your cohort
- Understanding the anticipated examination structure for the topic
- Drawing insights from past examination questions to enhance your teaching methods

Ensuring Success in Extended Writing Questions 2.30 – 3.10pm

- A look at sample responses and why they have been marked, how they have been marked
- Developing an approach to marking that enables progression of all students
- Marking task: a short, interactive session which involves marking sample responses
- Good habits when marking extended writing questions

Discussion: afternoon tea 3.10 – 3.15pm

Effective Exam Preparation Strategies 3.15 – 3.45pm

- Developing comprehensive revision plans for students
- Implementing formative assessment strategies throughout the course
- Exploring resources and tools for effective exam preparation
- Addressing common pitfalls and challenges in the lead-up to the exam

LOCATION/DATE

London

Friday 22 March 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dr Harjit Singh is an experienced teacher and senior examiner for A-Level Biology. She has taught and examined A-Level Biology for over 25 years, IB Biology for 8 years as well as BTEC Applied Science. She is a published author of the Key Skills and Knowledge Booster Biology and co-author of Key Skills and Knowledge Booster BTEC Science Applied and Vocational courses. She has presented many biology courses for teachers, student revision conferences and online web conferences. She is also involved in presenting international IB student revision courses.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Experienced AQA A-Level Biology teachers
- Teachers new to AQA A-Level Biology
- Heads of Biology

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Gain a deep understanding of how to deliver topics from paper 2 with a focus and purpose to improve attainment
- Increase the number of students with potential for the highest grades in this paper
- Explore many topics from paper 2 with suggestions on how to maintain focus on the end attainment
- Develop a teaching philosophy that is informed, targeted and effective, with proven strategies for teaching challenging content
- Enhance your ability to guide students in effective exam preparation
- Gain resources that you can take away for immediate use in the classroom

OUTSTANDING ASSESSMENT, MARKING AND FEEDBACK IN AQA A-LEVEL BIOLOGY

CODE **9544**

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This brand-new course focuses on developing a deeper understanding of assessment in AQA A-Level Biology and provides opportunities to explore strategies to enhance exam performance for students of all attainment levels.

The course will enable teachers to develop their understanding and skills needed to assess student responses to the different question types on AQA A-Level Biology exam papers. The course will also emphasise those teaching and learning strategies which will best facilitate improvement in student performance with a focus on the role of assessment for learning.

PROGRAMME

TIME

A Focus on the Assessment Model and the Support Available

10.00 – 10.50am

- Understanding the different requirements and demands of the 3 exam papers
- Explanation of the finer details of mark-schemes to know how marks are gained and lost
- Integrating the use of the Principal Examiner's reports into your teaching to inform students to avoid common errors and follow the advice being offered by AQA
- Appreciating the importance of the 'student learning outcomes' stated in the specification and the implications for teaching and learning

Discussion: coffee break

10.50 – 11.10am

Effective Assessment and Feedback to Students on Paper 1 Topics and Questions

11.10 – 12.00pm

- The most common student misconceptions of the paper 1 topics and how to challenge and eradicate these
- Using the AQA guidance provided in the Paper 1 examiner reports to improve students' performance
- Recommended teaching and learning strategies for the trickiest topics in Paper 1
- Resources and assessment methods that have been found to improve students' understanding and performance in answering questions on the Paper 1 topics

Effective Assessment and Feedback to Students on Paper 2 Topics and Questions

12.00 – 12.50pm

- The most common student misconceptions of the paper 2 topics and how to challenge and eradicate these
- Using the AQA guidance provided in the Paper 2 examiner reports to improve students' performance
- Recommended teaching and learning strategies for the trickiest topics in Paper 2
- Resources and assessment methods that have been found to improve students' understanding and performance in answering questions on the Paper 2 topics

Lunch and informal discussion

12.50 – 1.50pm

Effective assessment and feedback to students on the Paper 3 requirements

1.50 – 2.40pm

- Why students find Section A of Paper 3 the most difficult part of the A-level Biology assessment: where most of the marks are lost
- The AQA guidance on Paper 3, Section A from the reports and how best to implement these
- Recommended teaching and learning strategies for improving students' practical skills and how to improve their data analysis and evaluation ability
- How to decide which essay OPTION is best for your students – the pros and cons of each

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.40 – 2.45pm

Improving students' revision and exam technique

2.45 – 3.30pm

- A range of successful revision methods for students
- Getting the most from AQA past-papers and mark-schemes
- Detailed guidance on students' examination technique and to persuade them to follow these

LOCATION/DATE

London

Friday 08 March 2024

COURSE LEADER

Ellena Gilson is a former Head of Biology at a top grammar school with over 25 years of outstanding teaching experience. She has extensive experience as an A-Level Biology examiner and holds senior positions for two major examination boards.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- All teachers of AQA A-Level Biology
- Curriculum Leaders of Science and Biology
- Teachers who are new to teaching A-level Biology

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Develop a deeper understanding of the assessment demands in AQA A Level Biology
- Discover what examiners are looking for in all exam papers
- Enhance your analytical and guidance skills for student responses of different questions types: the short-answer, longer structured-answer and multiple-choice questions
- Special focus on the requirements of questions that test students' practical skills and their ability to analyse and evaluation experimental data
- Learn valuable techniques to help your students to become more self-sufficient in their own assessment journey
- Take away strategies and approaches to maximise students' marks in the exams

AQA A-LEVEL BIOLOGY: MAXIMISING STUDENT OUTCOMES IN THE EXAM PAPERS

CODE **9592**

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Irrespective of how well staff prepare students for the AQA exam papers in A-Level Biology, each year many marks are lost because of poor exam technique or students misinterpreting what a question is asking for.

This new course will look at the different types of questions featured across the 3 exam papers and how the initial reading and dissecting of a question is key to answering the question in the way that the question setter intended it to be answered.

There will be examples of answers from across a range of topics to illustrate the differences between high scoring answers and mediocre answers, which, when grade boundaries are very 'tight', could mean the loss of one or more grade.

Other common exam technique errors will also be addressed, and strategies introduced to help students monitor improvement in their exam technique.

A methodology for marking, grading and evaluating student work will be introduced.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Exploring the Different Types of Questions Across the Exam Papers

10.00 – 11.00am

- Identifying the range of question types; multiple choice, short structured, longer structured, data analysis, interpretation and evaluation, practical skills, synoptic questions, comprehension and essay
- Deepening the understanding of command words and the impact on an answer and subsequent marks gained when the command word in a question is not accurately addressed
- Developing student's exam skills; scaffolding, fill in gaps, part paragraphs, so-called model answers for high-scoring, mid-scoring and low-scoring responses, essay feedback sheets and developing literacy for concise answers

Discussion: coffee break

11.00 – 11.15am

Introduction to Ways to Prepare Students for Examination

11.15 – 12.30pm

- Overview of good practice in preparation for any exam series; reflection, knowledge and skills audit, action plan, set targets and review them regularly using trackers, long term planning, question matrix per topic/paper, revision aids
- Identifying the common pitfalls that students make at both ends of the ability spectrum and ways to avoid this
- Using historical centre-based information to address issues with the current cohort

Lunch and informal discussion

12.30 – 1.15pm

Extracting the Correct Information from the Question

1.15 – 2.15pm

- A question is more than just a test of subject knowledge – how to ensure that students dissect a question correctly
- Strategies to standardise the dissection of a question across different units, irrespective of the member of staff delivering the area of the specification
- Strategies for selecting appropriate content and utilising effective presentation for both structured questions and synoptic questions

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.15 – 2.30pm

Accurate Staff and Peer Marking

2.30 – 3.30pm

- How to approach teaching A-Level exam skills with confidence
- The use of appropriate and meaningful annotation when marking exam questions to give students the greatest amount of accurate information to help them improve their answers
- How students can monitor their own exam technique in homework and assessment tasks

LOCATION/DATE

London

Friday 22 March 2024

COURSE LEADER

Ellena Gilson is a former Head of Biology at a top grammar school with over 25 years of outstanding teaching experience. She has extensive experience as an A-Level Biology examiner and holds senior positions for two major examination boards.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Heads of Science Departments
- Teachers who deliver any of the units for AQA A-Level Biology

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Identify the range of question types across all three exam papers
- Identify the main areas where students lose marks when answering exam questions
- Focus on how to extract information from a question to allow access to all the marks available
- Analysing how; a lack of examples, repetition of information, failure to focus on key terms, insufficient points and vague comments can impact the final outcome
- Develop strategies for student self-monitoring and evaluation of their exam technique
- Develop an understanding of accurate staff and peer marking

AQA A-LEVEL BIOLOGY: HIGH IMPACT STRATEGIES TO ACCESS TOP MARKS

CODE 9301

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This new in-depth course will explore high impact strategies that raise attainment and support students to access top marks in their AQA A-Level Biology examinations. The course will share ideas and accompanying materials that you can take-away and use immediately in the classroom. You will leave equipped with knowledge of the latest evidence-informed teaching, learning and assessment practice as well as feedback from the most recent exams.

In addition, the course includes access to a range of resources and practical strategies that will enable you to meet the needs of your most able students and ultimately increase A and A* grade attainment. The course will also place the students' learning in the context of the next step with suggestions of how to engage the most able by opening the door on to further studying Biology at degree level.

Although aimed at teachers of AQA A-Level Biology, the course will benefit those following other major exam boards.

PROGRAMME

Key A/A* Skills: Mastery and Metacognition

10.00 – 11.15am

- Strategies to construct outstanding exam responses, looking at example A/A* exam responses
- How to tackle the tough exam questions and gain top marks
- Creating room for success: Training students to 'Mentally Step Back' and to develop 'Head Space' for clearer thinking under pressure
- Strategies to boost efficiency. Some of the most able students often 'overwrite', these strategies will help them 'zone in' to maximise top marks, with minimum effort

Discussion: coffee break

11.15 – 11.30am

Key A/A* Teacher Skills: Feedback and Feedforward

11.30 – 12.30pm

- Scaffolding as a key element of high-quality instruction, even the most able need to have clear structures.
- Providing higher order skills practice and model responses for students. Showing A/A* students what top mark exam responses look like, how to develop their own answers.
- Addressing key impact factors – 'Teacher Credibility' and 'Student Expectations' – research evidence suggests these are vital – top tips on how to address these.

Lunch and informal discussion

12.30 – 1.30pm

Key A/A* Characteristics: Resilience and Wellbeing

1.30 – 2.15pm

- How to support students with high expectations from falling backwards under the pressure – new research on perfectionism and healthy striving
- Strategies to support mental health and motivation
- Strategies to build grit and resilience
- How to use practical mindfulness training to promote awareness and wellbeing, whilst teaching key concepts at the same time: practical session

Key A/A* Exam Skills: Getting top marks in AO2/AO3 questions

2.15 – 2.45pm

- What does an A* AO2/3 response look like?
- Strategies to improve application skills for essays
- What does evaluation in an A/A* essay look like?

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.45 – 3.00pm

Key Curriculum Insights for A/A*: Less is More strategies

3.00 – 3.45pm

- Avoiding misconceptions by re-routing student expression
- Use of 'Threshold concepts' and 'Hinge questions' – a way to challenge top end students and mid/lower end ability simultaneously
- Teaching research methods in context for depth of understanding – preparation for ongoing research at university and into their career
- How to deal with the large content in AQA A-Level Biology – selectivity and re-cycling top tips for overlap key-studies that high end students can re-signpost across topics

LOCATION/DATE

London

Tuesday 27 February 2024

Friday 14 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dr Harjit Singh is an experienced teacher and senior examiner for A-Level Biology. She has taught and examined A-Level Biology for over 25 years, IB Biology for 8 years as well as BTEC Applied Science. She is a published author of the Key Skills and Knowledge Booster Biology and co-author of Key Skills and Knowledge Booster BTEC Science Applied and Vocational courses. She has presented many biology courses for teachers, student revision conferences and online web conferences. She is also involved in presenting international IB student revision courses.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Teachers of AQA A-Level Biology
- Heads of Biology departments
- Heads of Humanities departments

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Increase awareness of what success looks like for the most able Biology students
- Gain the latest evidence-informed practice that challenges A/A* students
- Develop greater understanding of what examiners are looking for in Grade A/A* responses
- Challenge your students with problem solving, modelling and questioning to stretch pupils' thinking processes
- Take away a range of innovative teaching ideas and resources to impact your pupils' learning immediately
- Deepen your understanding of assessment criteria and mark schemes
- Bring back concrete strategies and ideas to share with other A-Level Biology teachers
- Explore how to maximise success levels for your students in the examination
- Learn how to develop resilience so that talented Biology students achieve their A/A* potential

AIMING FOR A/A* IN AQA A-LEVEL BIOLOGY

CODE **9302**

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This new course will demonstrate how to guide your best students to achieve Grades A & A* in future AQA A-level Biology examinations. The course will explore the characteristics of A/A* students identified in research and why and how we have to challenge our most able Biology students.

Focused extensively on evidence-based teaching, learning and assessment practice as well as feedback from the most recent exams, you will leave with a vast range of resources and practical strategies that will enable you to meet the needs of your most able students and ultimately increase A and A* grade attainment.

Finally, we will look beyond the course to focus on preparing these students to continue studying Biology at university.

PROGRAMME

Challenging our most able students

TIME
10.00 – 10.45am

- Who are our most able students?
- Why do we have to challenge our most able students?
- How are A/A* Grades achieved?

Discussion: coffee break

10.45 – 11.00am

Focus on assessment demands for A/A* students

11.00 – 12.00pm

- Examine the assessment demands of all components including the use of assessment objectives as a framework for assessment
- Consider the most effective models for delivery of the course to ensure effective assessment
- Feedback and grading analysis from the most recent exam. What is required for A/A*?
- Analysis of mark schemes – which sections/questions differentiated candidates?
- Grades A & A*: what are the differences between these?
- Key attributes of Grade A/A* students in the classroom
- Avoiding potential hazards: what can cost a top student their A/A* grade?

The key challenges for A/A* students in the Papers

12.00 – 1.00pm

- Developing a deep understanding of core Biology concepts
- Supporting students to write top band essays
- Developing a personalised approach to note taking to support recall
- Applying Biological concepts to consistently write top band evaluation
- Activating prior knowledge to improve retention of key topic areas

Lunch and informal discussion

1.00 – 2.00pm

Stretching and Challenging the most able students

2.00 – 3.00pm

- Moving on from GCSE approaches – encouraging students to become sensitive readers
- Using wider reading to prepare for exams
- What makes a strong A-Level response? How can we build up to this?
- Working up to full essay questions, and using them to stretch students
- Planning with and designing support for students aiming for top grades
- Extra-curricular ideas that help get A and A* grades

Discussion: afternoon tea

3.00 – 3.10pm

Tactics for achieving the highest grades

3.10 – 3.40pm

- Develop an action plan for success for students aiming for top grades
- The shorter questions: what are the potential pitfalls?
- Focus on the extended questions and essays: what does a grade A/A* candidate need to do?
- Varying response practice to stretch the most able
- Revision ideas to help students produce high grade essays

LOCATION/DATE

London

Tuesday 12 March 2024

Thursday 04 July 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dr Harjit Singh is an experienced teacher and senior examiner for A-Level Biology. She has taught and examined A-Level Biology for over 25 years, IB Biology for 8 years as well as BTEC Applied Science. She is a published author of the Key Skills and Knowledge Booster Biology and co-author of Key Skills and Knowledge Booster BTEC Science Applied and Vocational courses. She has presented many biology courses for teachers, student revision conferences and online web conferences. She is also involved in presenting international IB student revision courses.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Teachers of AQA A-Level Biology
- Heads of Biology/Science
- Aspiring Heads of Biology/Science
- Teachers with responsibility for A-Level Biology

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Increase awareness of what teacher should aim to achieve with the most able Biologists
- Gain the latest evidence-based practice that challenges A/A* students
- Develop greater understanding of what examiners are looking for in Grade A/A* responses
- Take away a range of innovative teaching ideas and electronic resources for your most able students
- Learn how to develop resilience so that talented Biology students achieve their A/A* potential
- Focused on identifying the demands of Grades A & A* and providing materials to help teachers prepare students effectively
- A detailed look at the different demands of questions

A-LEVEL BIOLOGY: INCREASED RESULTS FOR LOWER PERFORMING STUDENTS

CODE **8679**

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course is aimed at teachers working with mixed ability and lower attaining students who are looking to maximise their potential in the upcoming A-Level Biology 2023 exams.

The course covers a range of effective teaching and assessment strategies, monitoring, early intervention and exam technique and approaches that improve confidence, effort and achievement. The course provides a comprehensive toolkit that adds value and will help learners excel in their Summer 2023 exam performance.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Effective techniques to embed subject knowledge and get students thinking synoptically

10.00 – 11.35am

- Implementing classroom techniques to ensure that lower ability learners understand key concepts.
- Develop effective techniques to help lower ability learners to retain knowledge, understand concepts and develop skills.
- Exploring Active Learning to develop skills and retain knowledge
- Lesson strategies that address difficult concepts where students experience difficulties such as the kidney.

Discussion: coffee break

11.35 – 11.50am

Monitoring & early intervention strategies that positively impact on student performance

11.50 – 12.30pm

- Techniques to quickly identify underperforming students and implement strategies to effectively support them.
- Using a range of monitoring tools to track performance, recognise underachievement and motivate learners.
- Explore early intervention strategies that engage learners and develop independent learning skills
- Implementing mastery tests to identify students who haven't grasped the fundamental concepts
- Driving student progress through marking and feedback.

Lunch and informal discussion

12.30 – 1.30pm

The Exams: Practical Strategies to raise attainment levels and enhance exam performance

1.30 – 2.15pm

- How to teach challenging topics to lower ability learners
- Embed exam technique into your teaching to enhance the performance of lower ability students
- Explore assessment strategies to help learners identify where they need to improve and how to achieve this.
- How to effectively use feedback.
- Methods to help students understand how the exam are marked and ways to help students use this knowledge
- How to tackle questions set in both a theoretical and practical context.
- Improve your students' confidence in being able to analyse, interpret and evaluate biological information, data and ideas.

Moving lower ability students towards mastery of practical skills

2.15 – 3.00pm

- Strategies to enable students to demonstrate these competencies consistently and routinely
- Developing and assessing the more challenging skills e.g. opportunities for students to select equipment and measurement strategies or to make adjustments when necessary.
- Researching, referencing and reporting – skill-building ideas to develop students' competence in using secondary sources to support planning and conclusion

Discussion: afternoon tea

3.00 – 3.10pm

Exam Success: Preparing students for the Practical assessments

3.10 – 4.00pm

- Using the language of measurement – ideas and activities to embed the key terms
- Strategies to improve exam technique in practical-based questions
- Examples of questions testing different assessment objectives

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 28 February 2024

Wednesday 26 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Michael Brown was an examiner for 18 years and has worked in post 16 education for 23 years, initially as an A-level Biology Tutor before progressing to Head of Department and finally STEM and Quality Initiatives Manager.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- A-Level Biology teachers
- Heads of Biology
- Heads of Science

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Utilise techniques to quickly identify underperformance and implement effective support strategies for success in the 2023 Exams
- Increased understanding of how to motivate underachieving learners and improve exam performance.
- Take Away fresh approaches to teach challenging topics to lower ability learners
- Techniques for tackling synoptic and data handling questions with confidence.
- Develop effective teaching and learning techniques to help lower ability learners to retain knowledge and better understand concepts
- How to prepare your students for questions in Summer 2023 examining the required practicals

OUTSTANDING AQA A-LEVEL BIOLOGY TEACHING

CODE 8681

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course, updated for Autumn 2022 is designed for all teachers who wish to ensure all students maximise their potential in A-Level Biology. By providing a range of proven, effective advanced teaching techniques, reinvigorated approaches, the course aims to help teachers create outstanding teaching, learning and achievement success to raise the overall attainment of their classes.

Emphasis will be placed on the content students often struggle with and strategies to teach this more successfully, how to wrestle with the challenges of the synoptic nature of the courses and skills students need for successful exam performance.

At the heart of Harjit's course is the need for rigorous understanding of the topics covered in order to flexibly apply this knowledge to unfamiliar examination scenarios, and how this can be improved for students from different starting points.

This intensive course will demonstrate how to guide your students to achieve their maximum possible grades in future AQA A-Level Biology examinations. Although the course is designed for teachers of AQA A-Level Biology it would be of benefit to teachers of other exam boards.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Planning for Success: Exploring the core concepts to build an integrated approach

10.00 – 11.00am

- Identifying and highlighting the core concepts to build an integrated approach to teaching biology. What are the 'first principles' in biology that give students a solid foundation for A-Level study?
- Sequencing topic content to embed opportunities for retrieval practice.
- Using core concepts to teach the most challenging areas of the course: the electron transport chain, immunity and action potentials.
- Interleaving taught content to promote student understanding of the inter-related nature of biological study supporting the teaching of more challenging content (e.g. interleaving photosynthesis and productivity, membranes and transport and action potentials)

Discussion: coffee break

11.00 – 11.15am

Strategies and Scaffolding to support students' application of knowledge to Unfamiliar Contexts

11.15 – 12.15pm

- Anticipating misconceptions and strategies to avoid them in meiosis
- Scaffolds to support students in developing fluency with biological terminology.
- Example frameworks that encourage students to develop rich and full responses on selection
- Questions, question types – breaking down the questions, applying appropriate responses.
- Tackling Hardy-Weinberg equations with modelling approaches.
- Interpreting stats tests correctly and building the three-part conclusion.

Raising Performance in Exams

12.15 – 1.00pm

- Building vocabulary and developing high end skills – spotting the key command words
- How to apply the appropriate knowledge to questions covering 'unfamiliar contexts.'
- Integrating practical skills and theoretical content to help students write about their practical work confidently
- How to support students to write coherently using biological terminology correctly.
- Evaluating conclusions made by other scientists – why students don't seem to get it.
- Making links – example responses to the synoptic essay and what examiners are looking for.

Lunch and informal discussion

1.00 – 2.00pm

Outstanding A-Level Biology teaching for A/A* results

2.00 – 2.45pm

- Fresh ideas, approaches and methods that challenge A/A* students and support their further development
- Teaching to the top: strategies for stretching/A* students and challenging complacent high-achievers.
- Supporting non-mathematicians in Biology with multi-part maths problems
- Encouraging self-monitoring and evaluation – when and how to intervene in year 12 and 13
- Develop greater understanding of the precision and detail that examiners are looking for in A/A* students
- Embedding Olympiad questions and stretching the most-able students
- Where to go 'over and above' to maximise outcomes
- Find out more about the barriers to progress and ways to support highly able students to overcome them

Enrichment Programmes to Raise the Profile of A-Level Biology

2.45 – 3.30pm

- Enrichment programmes to raise the profile of A-Level Biology.
- Where can Biology take me? Ideas to boost progression in the biological sciences.
- Beyond fieldwork: trips that bring the course to life.
- What next? Preparation for university and tackling Oxbridge admissions.

Evaluation and Close

3.30 – 3.40pm

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 06 March 2024

Friday 21 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dr Harjit K Singh is an experienced teacher and senior examiner for A-Level Biology. She has taught and examined A-Level Biology for over 25 years, IB Biology for 8 years as well as BTEC Applied Science. She is a published author of the Key Skills and Knowledge Booster Biology and co-author of Key Skills and Knowledge Booster BTEC Science Applied and Vocational courses.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Heads of Science
- Heads of Biology
- Teachers of AQA A-level Biology
- ECTs in A-Level Biology would also benefit from this course

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Explore the key concepts in biology that underpin topic content to develop an integrated approach to biological study
- Develop the use of retrieval practice to promote student recall, supporting the teaching of the most challenging A-Level topics
- Strategies and scaffolding to support student's application of knowledge to novel contexts
- New approaches for Biological writing, how to support students to write coherently using biological terminology correctly.
- Take away fresh ideas, approaches and methods that challenge A/A* students and support their further development
- Develop greater understanding of the precision and detail that examiners are looking for in A/A* students
- Find out more about the barriers to progress and ways to support highly able students to overcome them

AQA A-LEVEL BIOLOGY: A COMPLETE GUIDE FOR NEW TEACHERS

CODE 8680

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course offers an introduction and overview to teaching the AQA A-level Biology programme of study for anyone in their first 3 years of teaching the course, or for anyone lacking confidence in delivering the course effectively. While assessment materials will be drawn from the AQA course, many of the ideas will be applicable to other specifications.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Overview of the AQA A-level Biology course including challenges and what to expect from pupils 10.00 – 10.30am

- Key messages from the Summer 2022 Exams and preparing for 2023
- Recognising which areas will be most challenging for you and how to address these issues
- How to develop a teaching plan that reflects the assessment objective weightings and the areas which require more intense teaching
- Identifying your support network and making the most of it – particularly in a small department
- Ensuring topic areas which create the foundation for success – incorporating them into every lesson

Expectations at A-Level 10.30 – 11.20am

- The transition between GCSE and A-Level
- What do successful A-Level students do?
- What do Grade A/A* response look like?
- What do Grade D responses look like?
- Synoptic skills and how to use these in your teaching

Discussion: coffee break 11.20 – 11.40am

Approaches to Effectively Teaching the Maths and Practical Skills 11.40 – 12.40pm

- Effective methods and approaches for integrating maths and practical skills into teaching of the course
- How to integrate practical skills and theoretical content to help students write about their practical work confidently
- Practical strategies and approaches in the key challenges in teaching maths and practical skills

Lunch and informal discussion 12.40 – 1.40pm

Key Ideas for teaching the content knowledge from Paper 1 1.40 – 2.40pm

- Pitfalls and easy wins when teaching Biological Molecules, Cells, Organisms, exchange substances and their environment
- Teaching for success; how to support students to remember key concepts and begin to apply them – interleaving and retrieval strategies
- Teaching across the ability range; how to ensure top students are challenged, while not leaving lower ability students behind.
- Lessons from the exam boards and how to implement them in the classroom.

Planning and structuring 2.40 – 3.15pm

- Curriculum issues – Intent, Implementation and assessing Impact
- Milestones for success, what should students have mastered by the end of year 12
- Assessment time tables, when, what and how and how to balance this with whole school assessment schedules
- Time management – how to plan so that you can mark efficiently and effectively; use of peer assessment

The exams – what is expected 3.15 – 3.45pm

- Overview of all three papers by AQA, what are they looking for?
- Teaching towards the 'endgame', what language to use, ensure you are marking 'like the examiner' and secure grading
- Focus on essay structure in exams, how to pick up easy marks, and what top grade responses look like

LOCATION/DATE

London

Thursday 01 February 2024

Friday 05 July 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dr Harjit K Singh is an experienced teacher and senior examiner for A-Level Biology. She has taught and examined A-Level Biology for over 25 years, IB Biology for 8 years as well as BTEC Applied Science. She is a published author of the Key Skills and Knowledge Booster Biology and co-author of Key Skills and Knowledge Booster BTEC Science Applied and Vocational courses.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Those teaching A-Level Biology for the first time
- Teachers lacking in confidence in the qualification
- Heads of Biology
- Heads of Science
- ECTs in Biology

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Provide teachers of A-Level Biology with the material and confidence to teach effectively to all ability ranges
- Obtain quality understanding of the key challenge areas and how to teach them
- Explore how the maths and practical skills can be embedded throughout the course
- Gain insight into the content, the exam structure and the how exams are marked.
- Leave with a set of resources and scheme of work for the full 2 year course
- Understanding of how to differentiate using scaffold and stretch strategies for essay writing

TEACHING A-LEVEL BIOLOGY OCR A FOR THE FIRST TIME

CODE **9575**

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course offers an introduction and overview to teaching the A-level Biology OCR A programme of study for anyone in their first 3 years of teaching the course, or for anyone lacking confidence in delivering the course effectively. While assessment materials will be drawn from the OCR course, many of the ideas will be applicable to other specifications.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Overview of the A-level Biology OCR A Course Specification

10.00 – 10.30am

- Introduction to the learning outcomes and why they are so important for exams
- How to develop your teaching style to reflect the assessment objective weightings and the areas which require more intense teaching
- Overview of all three OCR papers

Embedding Maths and Practical Skills into your Teaching

10.30 – 11.10am

- Understand how Maths is assessed and can be integrated into the general course teaching
- Discuss how practical skills are assessed and are vital to all abilities reaching their potential grade
- An introduction into the language of measurement

Discussion: coffee break

11.10 – 11.25am

Independent Assessment of Practical Skills in Exam Questions

11.25 – 12.25pm

- How to integrate practical skills and theoretical content to help students write about their practical work confidently
- Exemplar material focusing on practical skills questions

Lunch and informal discussion

12.25 – 1.10pm

Course Delivery and Key Challenges

1.10 – 2.10pm

- Discussion of the options for delivering the course
- How to incorporate independent learning to be able to cover the large course content
- The importance of synoptic teaching and learning
- Teaching for success; how to support students to remember key concepts and begin to apply them – interleaving and retrieval strategies

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.10 – 2.20pm

The Most Important Topics and the Most Challenging Topics

2.20 – 2.50pm

- Discussion of the topic areas that create the foundation for success
- Recognising which topic areas will be most challenging and ideas to make them more accessible
- The importance of Y12 AS knowledge and understanding for Y13 topics
- Teaching across the ability range; how to ensure top students are challenged, while not leaving lower ability students behind

Exam Structure, Different Types of Exam Questions and Exam Technique

2.50 – 3.30pm

- An analysis of the different types of exam question and strategies for success
- A specific focus on how to attempt the level of response questions (LoR)
- Teaching towards the 'endgame', what language to use, misconceptions to avoid and general tips for success
- Time management – the use of peer assessment and self-assessment
- Support available from the exam boards – where to find it and how to use it

LOCATION/DATE

London

Friday 01 March 2024

Friday 21 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Ellena Gilson is a former Head of Biology at a top grammar school with over 25 years of outstanding teaching experience. She has extensive experience as an A-Level Biology examiner and holds senior positions for two major examination boards.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- ECTs in Biology
- Those teaching A-Level Biology for the first time
- Teachers lacking in confidence in the qualification
- Heads of Biology
- Heads of Science

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- A focus on the specification to be able to incorporate the learning outcomes and assessment objectives into your teaching
- Explore how the maths and practical skills are assessed and can be embedded throughout the course
- Discuss how to deliver the course effectively to all ability ranges
- Obtain quality understanding of the key challenge areas and how to teach them
- Gain insight into the exam structure and the how exams are marked, to be able to guide students in exam technique for the different types of questions
- Understand how to construct an answer for the level of response questions using scaffold and stretch strategies

NEW: AQA A-LEVEL CHEMISTRY: PREPARING STUDENTS FOR EXAM SUCCESS IN 2025 AND BEYOND

CODE 9652

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This brand-new course for all teachers of AQA A-Level Chemistry will explore how you can turn the mistakes made in previous exam series into an opportunity for positive change moving forward, fully preparing your students for success in the year ahead and beyond.

This interactive course will support and challenge teachers in equal measures. You will leave with a thorough overview of the main lessons to be learnt from previous examinations and a wide range of ideas, methods and approaches to prepare students to maximise their potential in the 2025 exams.

Emphasis will be made on the demands of the exams that are not met as well as they could be, and the implications this has for your A-Level teaching and learning.

PROGRAMME

TIME

The Exam – Reflections and Approaches

10.00 – 11.00am

- Feedback from recent exams: what is it essential to be aware of?
- The main factors that affect examination success in all 3 papers; the challenges experienced by candidates and how ways of teaching can facilitate a reduction in marks lost
- Deep-diving problem questions from the exam papers
- How to engage students in the content of the course, and how to maximise their focus on what brings the most reward in examinations
- Reflections on recent mark schemes and what this means moving forward
- Starting to make a plan of action- what should we do? How should we do it?

Discussion: coffee break

11.00 – 11.20am

A Focus on Levelled Questions

11.20 – 12.20pm

- How do students answer compared to what the exam board want to see
- Strategies to decipher and meet the demands of the questions
- Managing synopticity
- AO3 clinic- ways to fix the AO3 success rate in your school

Lunch and informal discussion

12.20 – 1.20pm

Short Answer Headaches

1.20 – 2.20pm

- Dealing with data in the manner that A-Level Chemistry expects
- Working with new and innovative methods to prepare students for the exams demands
- Deciphering where marks are lost
- Working on strategies to minimise the silly mistakes

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.20 – 2.30pm

Moving Forward and Maximising Success in 2025 and Beyond

2.30 – 3.30pm

Summary of what we have learnt

Producing a plan of action to maximise student success in 2025

Specific lessons to be learnt and how to prevent them from happening again

Ensuring whole department success – managing staff and developing a progressive teaching culture that organically learns and improves

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 10 July 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dee Martin is Head of Chemistry & STEM at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham, an Academy with a non-selective intake. She is an experienced AQA A-Level Chemistry examiner and currently delivers revision courses to many schools across the country guiding teachers in preparing for exams and helping to raise student grades.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Teachers of AQA A-Level Chemistry
- Heads of Department
- Academic leads for Chemistry
- Prospective or new teachers of AQA A-Level Chemistry

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Understand the main lessons to be learnt from previous examinations
- Gain an informed overview of key areas of concern
- Learn new and innovative ways to deliver areas that target these areas of concern
- Experience and try out novel pedagogy in the classroom
- Produce a strategic approach to maximise student success in 2025 and beyond

OUTSTANDING ASSESSMENT, MARKING AND FEEDBACK IN AQA A-LEVEL CHEMISTRY

CODE 9546

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This brand-new course focuses on developing a deeper understanding of assessment in AQA A-Level Chemistry and provides opportunities to explore strategies to enhance exam performance for students of all attainment levels.

The course will enable teachers to develop their understanding and skills needed to assess student responses to the different question types on AQA A-Level Chemistry exam papers. The course will also emphasise those teaching and learning strategies which will best facilitate improvement in student performance with a focus on the role of assessment for learning.

PROGRAMME

Ensuring that you assess students' work in a reliably and time-effective manner

TIME
10.00 – 10.50am

- Understanding the different requirements and demands of the 3 exam papers
- Understanding the finer details of mark-schemes to know how marks are gained and lost
- Understanding how to use the Principal Examiner's to help future students – avoiding common errors and following the advice being offered by AQA
- The importance of the 'student learning outcomes' stated in the specification and the implications for teaching and learning
- Maximising the feedback provided for your centre via AQA's Enhanced Results Analysis (ERA)

Discussion: coffee break

10.50 – 11.10am

Effective Assessment and Feedback to Students on Paper 1 Topics and Questions

11.10 – 12.00pm

- The most common student misconceptions of the paper 1 topics and how to challenge and eradicate these
- Using the AQA guidance provided in the Paper 1 reports to improve students' performance
- Recommended teaching and learning strategies for the trickiest topics in Paper 1
- Resources and assessment methods that have been found to improve students' understanding and performance in answering questions on the Paper 1 topics

Effective Assessment and Feedback to Students on Paper 2 Topics and Questions

12.00 – 12.50pm

- The most common student misconceptions of the paper 2 topics and how to challenge and eradicate these
- Using the AQA guidance provided in the Paper 2 reports to improve students' performance
- Recommended teaching and learning strategies for the trickiest topics in Paper 2
- Resources and assessment methods that have been found to improve students' understanding and performance in answering questions on the Paper 2 topics

Lunch and informal discussion

12.50 – 1.50pm

Effective assessment and feedback to students on the Paper 3 requirements

1.50 – 2.40pm

- Why students find Section A of Paper 3 the most difficult part of the A-level Chemistry assessment: where most of the marks are lost
- The AQA guidance on Paper 3, Section A from the reports and how best to implement these
- Recommended teaching and learning strategies for improving students' practical skills and how to improve their data analysis ability
- How to decide which OPTION is best for your students – the pros and cons of each and what the assessment data indicates

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.40 – 2.45pm

Improving students' revision and exam technique

2.45 – 3.30pm

- The most reliable revision methods for students
- Getting the most from AQA past-papers and mark-schemes
- Detailed guidance on students' examination technique and to persuade them to follow these

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 20 March 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dr Caroline Evans is the Head of Chemistry at Wellington College which she joined in September 2015. Prior to this she taught Chemistry at Canford School, Dorset for three years after she had graduated from the University of Bath in 2012 with a PhD in organic chemistry. She has been examining for nearly 10 years and is currently an Examiner for AQA Chemistry Paper 2 and Assistant Principal Examiner for Pearson GCSE Chemistry.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- All teachers of AQA A-Level Chemistry
- Curriculum Leaders of Science and Chemistry
- Teachers who are new to teaching A-level Chemistry

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Develop a deeper understanding of the assessment demands in AQA A-Level Chemistry
- Discover what examiners are looking for in all exam Papers
- Improve your ability to analyse and improve student responses for the short-answer, long-answer and multiple-choice questions
- Special focus on the requirements of questions that test students' practical skills and their ability to analyse experimental data.
- How to help your students to become more self-sufficient.
- Take away strategies and approaches to maximise students' marks in the exams.

NEW TO TEACHING AQA A-LEVEL CHEMISTRY

CODE **9305**

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course is designed for teachers who are new to teaching AQA A-Level Chemistry, or who wish to improve their understanding to enable their students to achieve higher grades. The sessions are designed to improve delegates' understanding of AQA A-Level Chemistry specification and ensure that candidates have the best opportunity to maximise their potential grades.

Delegates will receive new teaching approaches as well as key guidance in how to develop exceptional examination and practical techniques in AQA A-Level Chemistry to maximise students' success when delivering the course for the first time.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Introduction: identifying methods that will enhance performance from the start

10.00 – 11.15am

- Overview of the specification – introducing the scheme of work and baseline assessment
- How can you use mental models and metacognition to get the best out of your students
- Link with content from GCSE and highlight traditional areas where students can struggle
- Analysing the assessment criteria and looking how to incorporate AO1, AO2 and AO3 in your lessons
- Recognising which areas will be the most challenging and preparing for these
- Identifying your support network and making the most of it

Discussion: coffee break

11.15 – 11.30am

Tackling the Challenging Content of AQA A-Level Chemistry

11.30 – 12.15pm

- Planning and teaching the more demanding topics – what these are and how to factor them into your teaching
- Making complicated concepts easy; faded scaffolds and modelling
- Teaching ideas, related questions and supporting resources to help improve student understanding
- Teaching for the different types of questions, with examples, so that you can help students access all the available marks
- Formative assessment and feedback; how can this be threaded through all of your lessons to maximise pupil learning

How to teach some of the conceptually hardest topics

12.15 – 1.15pm

- Scaffolding mathematical content for both mathematicians and non-mathematicians ensuring stretch and challenge for all students
- Identifying where most marks are lost in exams and how to support students to ensure they minimise errors
- Teaching analytical techniques for exam success including NMR
- Breaking down the questions and fool proof support to answer NMR questions
- Maximising marks for A* students
- Planning for success, teaching methodologies and using retrieval practice to boost student performance
- Teaching ideas with associated questions and resources
- Getting students involved in their learning – making theory 'practical'

Lunch and informal discussion

1.15 – 2.15pm

Managing the Required Practical Activities

2.15 – 3.15pm

- What you have to teach, what the students have to do and know
- How to mark Required Practicals and the information that AQA will expect
- The AQA standard at different grades and getting your students to reach it
- How to structure a programme of practical teaching and assessment that helps your students gain the best marks
- Structured v Investigative approaches – finding the opportunities
- Techniques to help students construct excellent written responses in the exams: where and why they can struggle in A-Level with this skill

Effectively tackling the Exam Papers

3.15 – 3.45pm

- How to approach teaching A-level exam skills with confidence
- Teaching towards the 'endgame', what language to use, ensure you are marking 'like the examiner' and secure grading
- Focus on essay structure in exams, how to pick up easy marks, and what top grade responses look like
- Marking and assessment strategies: supporting students to access the higher-level grades
- Extended answers – ideas for development

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 06 March 2024

Wednesday 26 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dee Martin is Head of Chemistry & STEM at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham, an Academy with a non-selective intake. She is an experienced AQA A-Level Chemistry examiner and currently delivers revision courses to many schools across the country guiding teachers in preparing for exams and helping to raise student grades.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- All teachers new, or nearly new, to teaching AQA A-Level Chemistry
- Those who lack confidence, or who feel they would benefit from a refresher course

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Obtain excellent understanding of the complexities of the AQA A-Level Chemistry specification
- Gain insight into the content, the exam structure and how the exams are marked
- Develop your teaching in specific topic areas to raise standard of achievement
- Examples of extended A-Level questions: how to prepare students to get the most possible marks

AIMING FOR A/A* IN AQA A-LEVEL CHEMISTRY

CODE 9306

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This new course will demonstrate how to guide your best students to achieve Grades A & A* in future AQA A-level Chemistry examinations. The course will explore the characteristics of A/A* students identified in research and why and how we must challenge our most able Chemistry students.

Focused extensively on evidence-based teaching, learning and assessment practice as well as feedback from the most recent exams, you will leave with a vast range of resources and practical strategies that will enable you to meet the needs of your most able students and ultimately increase A and A* grade attainment.

Finally, we will look beyond the course to focus on preparing these students to continue studying Chemistry at university. The course is designed for teachers of AQA A-Level Chemistry, but would be of benefit to teachers of other exam boards as well.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Focus on the pedagogy; how can it unlock the potential of A/A* students?

10.00 – 11.15am

- Mental models, metacognition and flipped learning; how can they be practically applied and what benefits will they deliver
- Review characteristics of A and A* A-Level students
- How are A/A* Grades achieved?

Discussion: coffee break

11.15 – 11.30am

The Exams – Techniques and Tactics

11.30 – 1.00pm

- The key topics A/A* students find most challenging and how to scaffold
- Techniques for memory retrieval and recall and application to examination questions
- Dissecting examination questions- vocabulary & command words
- Strategies to improve responses to exam questions and signposting
- Dealing with the maths; a look at some of the challenging areas of physical chemistry including: challenging titration questions, graphs and related questions, pH and buffers
- Mechanisms; how to embed the academic rigour required to maximise marks
- Avoiding potential hazards – what can cost a top student their A/A* grade?

Lunch and informal discussion

1.00 – 2.00pm

The key challenges for A/A* students in the Papers

2.00 – 3.00pm

- Developing a deep understanding of core Chemistry concepts
- Practical questions; supporting students to write top level response questions every time
- Developing a personalised approach to note taking to support recall
- Activating prior knowledge to improve retention of key topic areas

Discussion: afternoon tea

3.00 – 3.15pm

Stretching and Challenging the most able students

3.15 – 3.45pm

- Moving on from GCSE approaches – highlighting the teaching differences from the start of the A-Level course
- What makes a strong A-Level response? How can we build up to this?
- Using wider reading to prepare for exams
- RSC Olympiad resources and Cambridge Chemistry Challenge – using questions over and above recommended reading, preparing for Oxbridge
- Embedding RSC Olympiad resources and Cambridge Chemistry Challenge resources into schemes of work and lessons to stretch the most able students in Chemistry.
- Strategies for stretching A/A* students in a mixed-ability classroom and challenging complacent high-achievers

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 20 March 2024

Wednesday 03 July 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dee Martin is Head of Chemistry & STEM at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham, an Academy with a non-selective intake. She is an experienced AQA A-Level Chemistry examiner and currently delivers revision courses to many schools across the country guiding teachers in preparing for exams and helping to raise student grades.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Teachers of AQA A-Level Chemistry
- Heads of Chemistry/Science
- Aspiring Heads of Chemistry/Science
- Teachers with responsibility for A-Level Chemistry

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Understand how applying current pedagogy regarding flipped learning and metacognition will transform your teaching of more able students
- Develop the use of mental models to promote student recall, supporting the teaching of the most challenging A-Level topics
- Develop greater understanding of the precision and detail that examiners are looking for in A/A* students
- Find out more about the barriers to progression and ways to support highly able students to overcome them
- A detailed look at the different demands of questions and how to prepare students to answer them effectively
- Take away a range of innovative teaching ideas and electronic resources to help advance your most able students

OUTSTANDING AQA A-LEVEL CHEMISTRY TEACHING: HOW TO GET ACROSS THE TOUGHEST TOPICS

CODE 9308

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This brand-new course will explore the more difficult to teach topics in AQA A-Level Chemistry and is designed for all teachers who wish to ensure their students maximise their potential.

By providing a range of fresh and innovative teaching approaches to help students achieve a greater depth of understanding in these areas, the course aims to help teachers foster outstanding teaching, learning and achievement and raise the overall attainment of their classes.

Emphasis is placed on the content students (and occasionally teachers) often struggle with, the tough topics and strategies and approaches needed to teach them more successfully, how to wrestle with the challenges of the synoptic nature of the course and skills students need for successful exam performance.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Calculations; Time of Flight, Amount of Substance, Acids and Buffers

10.00 – 11.00am

- Scaffold calculations to provide a fool-proof method for students to follow
- How can mental models and long-term memory help access the hardest calculation questions?
- Teaching for success; both challenging A* students and supporting lower attainment students to ensure they all achieve their potential

Discussion: coffee break

11.00 – 11.15am

A2 trickier topics; Gibbs free energy, Standard Electrode Potential, Rate Equations

11.15 – 12.15pm

- How to simplify teaching of these topics with mental models to facilitate understanding
- What are the common mistakes that students make and how can you ensure that this does not impact on their exam grade
- Teaching for success; both challenging A* students and supporting lower attainment students to ensure they all achieve their potential

Organic chemistry and NMR to maximise marks

12.15 – 1.15pm

- Methods to teach and revise organic chemistry to ensure student confidence and eliminate careless errors
- What are the common mistakes that students make and how can you ensure that this does not impact on their exam grade
- Teaching for success; both challenging A* students and supporting lower attainment students to ensure they all achieve their potential

Lunch and informal discussion

1.15 – 2.15pm

Required practicals; how to ensure confidence in Paper 3

2.15 – 3.15pm

- Levelled questions; how are they marked and how can you help your students succeed
- Linking the practical to the theory
- Proven methods of revision to support your students
- What are the common mistakes that students make and how can you ensure that this does not impact on their exam grade

Exam Tactics and Techniques

3.15 – 3.40pm

- How to bring all the content together to prepare for the exam
- How to embed exam technique for students at different levels from an Examiner's perspective
- How to prevent key mistakes from being made
- Revision strategies... that work!

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 28 February 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dee Martin is Head of Chemistry & STEM at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham, an Academy with a non-selective intake. She is an experienced AQA A-Level Chemistry examiner and currently delivers revision courses to many schools across the country guiding teachers in preparing for exams and helping to raise student grades.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Heads of Science
- Heads of Chemistry
- Experienced and New Teachers of AQA A-Level Chemistry

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Focus on an area you teach and learn how to make synoptic links to other areas
- Receive informed lesson ideas and resources to make delivery easier and more effective
- Focus on key errors and mistakes that are commonly made
- Learn from previous marks schemes/ average scores attained and how issues can be addressed
- Network with fellow professionals
- Clarify any misconceptions in depth and theoretical
- Gain an Examiner's insight into the common mistakes made for these key topics

AIMING FOR A/A* IN OCR A-LEVEL CHEMISTRY

CODE 9309

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This new course will demonstrate how to guide your best students to achieve Grades A & A* in future OCR A-level Chemistry examinations. The course will explore the characteristics of A/A* students identified in research and why and how we must challenge our most able Chemistry students.

Focused extensively on evidence-based teaching, learning and assessment practice as well as feedback from the most recent exams, you will leave with a vast range of resources and practical strategies that will enable you to meet the needs of your most able students and ultimately increase A and A* grade attainment.

Finally, we will look beyond the course to focus on preparing these students to continue studying Chemistry at university. The course is designed for teachers of OCR A-Level Chemistry, but would be of benefit to teachers of other exam boards as well.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Focus on the pedagogy; how can it unlock the potential of A/A* students?

10.00 – 11.15am

- Mental models, metacognition and flipped learning; how can they be practically applied and what benefits will they deliver
- Review characteristics of A and A* A-Level students
- How are A/A* Grades achieved?

Discussion: coffee break

11.15 – 11.30am

The Exams – Techniques and Tactics

11.30 – 1.00pm

- The key topics A/A* students find most challenging and how to scaffold
- Techniques for memory retrieval and recall and application to examination questions
- Dissecting examination questions- vocabulary & command words
- Strategies to improve responses to exam questions and signposting
- Dealing with the maths; a look at some of the challenging areas of physical chemistry including: challenging titration questions, graphs and related questions, pH and buffers
- Mechanisms; how to embed the academic rigour required to maximise marks
- Avoiding potential hazards – what can cost a top student their A/A* grade?

Lunch and informal discussion

1.00 – 2.00pm

The key challenges for A/A* students in the Papers

2.00 – 3.00pm

- Developing a deep understanding of core Chemistry concepts
- Practical questions; supporting students to write top level response questions every time
- Developing a personalised approach to note taking to support recall
- Activating prior knowledge to improve retention of key topic areas

Discussion: afternoon tea

3.00 – 3.15pm

Stretching and Challenging the most able students

3.15 – 3.45pm

- Moving on from GCSE approaches – highlighting the teaching differences from the start of the A-Level course
- What makes a strong A-Level response? How can we build up to this?
- Using wider reading to prepare for exams
- RSC Olympiad resources and Cambridge Chemistry Challenge – using questions over and above recommended reading, preparing for Oxbridge
- Embedding RSC Olympiad resources and Cambridge Chemistry Challenge resources into schemes of work and lessons to stretch the most able students in Chemistry.
- Strategies for stretching A/A* students in a mixed-ability classroom and challenging complacent high-achievers

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 13 March 2024

Wednesday 05 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dee Martin is Head of Chemistry & STEM at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham, an Academy with a non-selective intake. She is an experienced AQA A-Level Chemistry examiner and currently delivers revision courses to many schools across the country guiding teachers in preparing for exams and helping to raise student grades.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Teachers of OCR A-Level Chemistry
- Heads of Chemistry/Science
- Aspiring Heads of Chemistry/Science
- Teachers with responsibility for A-Level Chemistry

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Understand how applying current pedagogy regarding flipped learning and metacognition will transform your teaching of more able students
- Develop the use of mental models to promote student recall, supporting the teaching of the most challenging A-Level topics
- Develop greater understanding of the precision and detail that examiners are looking for in A/A* students
- Find out more about the barriers to progression and ways to support highly able students to overcome them
- A detailed look at the different demands of questions and how to prepare students to answer them effectively
- Take away a range of innovative teaching ideas and electronic resources to help advance your most able students

OUTSTANDING OCR A-LEVEL CHEMISTRY TEACHING: HOW TO GET ACROSS THE TOUGHEST TOPICS

CODE 9310

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This brand-new course will explore the more difficult to teach topics in OCR A-Level Chemistry and is designed for all teachers who wish to ensure their students maximise their potential.

By providing a range of fresh and innovative teaching approaches to help students achieve a greater depth of understanding in these areas, the course aims to help teachers foster outstanding teaching, learning and achievement and raise the overall attainment of their classes.

Emphasis is placed on the content students (and occasionally teachers) often struggle with, the tough topics and strategies and approaches needed to teach them more successfully, how to wrestle with the challenges of the synoptic nature of the course and skills students need for successful exam performance.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Calculations; Amount of Substance, Acids and Buffers, Graphs and Arrhenius

10.00 – 11.00am

- Scaffold calculations to provide a fool-proof method for students to follow
- How can mental models and long-term memory help access the hardest calculation questions?
- Teaching for success; both challenging A* students and supporting lower attainment students to ensure they all achieve their potential

Discussion: coffee break

11.00 – 11.15am

A2 trickier topics; Gibbs free energy, Standard Electrode Potential, Rate Equations

11.15 – 12.15pm

- How to simplify teaching of these topics with mental models to facilitate understanding
- What are the common mistakes that students make and how can you ensure that this does not impact on their exam grade
- Teaching for success; both challenging A* students and supporting lower attainment students to ensure they all achieve their potential

Organic chemistry and NMR to maximise marks

12.15 – 1.15pm

- Methods to teach and revise organic chemistry to ensure student confidence and eliminate careless errors
- What are the common mistakes that students make and how can you ensure that this does not impact on their exam grade
- Teaching for success; both challenging A* students and supporting lower attainment students to ensure they all achieve their potential

Lunch and informal discussion

1.15 – 2.15pm

PAGS; how to ensure confidence in Paper 3

2.15 – 3.15pm

- Levelled questions; how are they marked and how can you help your students succeed
- Linking the practical to the theory
- Proven methods of revision to support your students
- What are the common mistakes that students make and how can you ensure that this does not impact on their exam grade

Exam Tactics and Techniques

3.15 – 3.40pm

- How to bring all the content together to prepare for the exam
- How to embed exam technique for students at different levels from an Examiner's perspective
- How to prevent key mistakes from being made
- Revision strategies...that work!

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 07 February 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dee Martin is Head of Chemistry & STEM at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham, an Academy with a non-selective intake. She is an experienced AQA A-Level Chemistry examiner and currently delivers revision courses to many schools across the country guiding teachers in preparing for exams and helping to raise student grades.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Heads of Science
- Heads of Chemistry
- Experienced and New Teachers of OCR A-Level Chemistry

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Focus on an area you teach and learn how to make synoptic links to other areas
- Receive informed lesson ideas and resources to make delivery easier and more effective
- Focus on key errors and mistakes that are commonly made
- Learn from previous marks schemes/ average scores attained and how issues can be addressed
- Network with fellow professionals
- Clarify any misconceptions in depth and theoretical application
- Gain an Examiner's insight into the common mistakes made for these key topics

NEW: AQA A-LEVEL PHYSICS: PREPARING STUDENTS FOR EXAM SUCCESS IN 2025 AND BEYOND

CODE **9655**

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This brand-new course for all teachers of AQA A-Level Physics will explore how you can turn the mistakes made in previous exam series into an opportunity for positive change moving forward, fully preparing your students for success in the year ahead and beyond.

This interactive course will support and challenge teachers in equal measures. You will leave with a thorough overview of the main lessons to be learnt from previous examinations and a wide range of ideas, methods and approaches to prepare students to maximise their potential in the 2025 exams.

Emphasis will be made on the demands of the exams that are not met as well as they could be, and the implications this has for your A-Level teaching and learning.

PROGRAMME

TIME

The Exam - Reflections and Approaches

10.00 – 11.00am

- Feedback from recent exams: what is it essential to be aware of?
- The main factors that affect examination success in all 3 papers and the challenges experienced by candidates
- Deep-diving problem questions from the exam papers
- How to engage students in the content of the course, and how to maximise their focus on what brings the most reward in examinations
- Reflections on recent mark schemes and what this means moving forward
- Starting to make a plan of action- what should we do? How should we do it?

Discussion: coffee break

11.00 – 11.20am

A Focus on Comprehension and Essay Questions

11.20 – 12.20pm

- How do students answer compared to what the exam board want to see
- Strategies to decipher and meet the demands of the questions
- Managing synopticity

Lunch and informal discussion

12.20 – 1.20pm

Short Answer Headaches

1.20 – 2.20pm

- Dealing with data in the manner that A-Level Physics expects
- Working with new and innovative methods to prepare students for data demands
- Deciphering where marks are lost
- Working on strategies to minimise the silly mistakes

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.20 – 2.30pm

Moving Forward and Maximising Success in 2025 and Beyond

2.30 – 3.30pm

- Summary of what we have learnt
- Producing a plan of action to maximise student success in 2025
- Specific lessons to be learnt and how to prevent them from happening again
- Ensuring whole department success - managing staff and developing a progressive teaching culture that organically learns and improves

LOCATION/DATE

London

Friday 14 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Howard Dodd has worked for many years as a teacher, subject leader, university lecturer, A-level Physics Principal Examiner, ITT trainer, QTS assessor and as a consultant to schools and colleges on leadership, management, assessment and pedagogy. He has successfully presented in-service training courses for teachers for over 30 years.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Teachers of AQA A-Level Physics
- Heads of Department
- Academic leads for Physics
- Prospective or new teachers of AQA A-Level Physics

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Understand the main lessons to be learnt from previous examinations
- Gain an informed overview of key areas of concern
- Learn new and innovative ways to deliver areas that target these areas of concern
- Experience and try out novel pedagogy in the classroom
- Produce a strategic approach to maximise student success in 2025 and beyond

OUTSTANDING ASSESSMENT, MARKING AND FEEDBACK IN AQA A-LEVEL PHYSICS

CODE **9456**

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This new course focuses on developing a deeper understanding of assessment in AQA A-Level Physics and provides opportunities to explore strategies to enhance exam performance for students of all attainment levels.

The course will enable teachers to develop their understanding and skills needed to assess student responses to the different question types on AQA A-Level Physics exam papers. The course will also emphasise those teaching and learning strategies which will best facilitate improvement in student performance with a focus on the role of assessment for learning.

PROGRAMME

Ensuring that you assess students' work in a reliably and time-effective manner

TIME

10.00 – 10.20am

- Understanding the different requirements and demands of the 3 exam papers.
- Understanding the finer details of mark-schemes to know how marks are gained and lost.
- Understanding how to use the Principal Examiner's to help future students – avoiding common errors and following the advice being offered by AQA.
- The importance of the 'student learning outcomes' stated in the specification and the implications for teaching and learning.
- Maximising the feedback provided for your centre via AQA's Enhanced Results Analysis (ERA)

Discussion: coffee break

10.50 – 11.10am

Effective assessment and feedback to students on the Paper 1 topics and questions

11.10 – 12.00pm

- The most common student misconceptions of the paper 1 topics and how to challenge and eradicate these.
- Using the AQA guidance provided in the Paper 1 PE reports to improve students' performance.
- Recommended teaching and learning strategies for the trickiest topics in Paper 1.
- Resources and assessment methods that have been found to improve students' understanding and performance in answering questions on the Paper 1 topics.

Effective assessment and feedback to students on Paper 2 topics and questions

12.00 – 12.50pm

- The most common student misconceptions of the paper 2 topics and how to challenge and eradicate these.
- Using the AQA guidance provided in the Paper 1 PE reports to improve students' performance.
- Recommended teaching and learning strategies for the trickiest topics in Paper 2.
- Resources and assessment methods that have been found to improve students' understanding and performance in answering questions on the Paper 2 topics.

Lunch and informal discussion

12.50 – 1.50pm

Effective assessment and feedback to students on the Paper 3 requirements

1.50 – 2.40pm

- Why students find Section A of Paper 3 the most difficult part of the A-level Physics assessment: where most of the marks are lost.
- The AQA guidance on Paper 3, Section A from the PE reports and how best to implement these.
- Recommended teaching and learning strategies for improving students' practical skills and how to improve their data analysis ability.
- How to decide which OPTION is best for your students – the pros and cons of each and what the assessment data indicates.

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.40 – 2.45pm

Improving students' revision and exam technique

2.45 – 3.30pm

- The most reliable revision methods for students.
- Getting the most from AQA past-papers and mark-schemes.
- Detailed guidance on students' examination technique and to persuade them to follow these.

LOCATION/DATE

London

Monday 18 March 2024

Monday 17 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Howard Dodd has worked for many years as a teacher, subject leader, university lecturer, A-level Physics Principal Examiner, ITT trainer, QTS assessor and as a consultant to schools and colleges on leadership, management, assessment and pedagogy. He has successfully presented in-service training courses for teachers for over 30 years.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- All teachers of AQA A-Level Physics
- Curriculum Leaders of Science and Physics
- Teachers who are new to teaching A-Level Physics

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Develop a deeper understanding of the assessment demands in AQA A-Level Physics
- Discover what examiners are looking for in Papers 1, 2 and 3.
- Improve your ability to analyse and improve student responses for the short-answer, long-answer and multiple-choice questions in Papers 1 and 2.
- Special focus on the requirements of the Paper 3, Section A questions that test students' practical skills and their ability to analyse experimental data.
- How to help your students to become more self-sufficient.
- Take away strategies and approaches to maximise students' marks in the exams.

AQA A-LEVEL PHYSICS: MAXIMISING STUDENT OUTCOMES IN THE EXAM PAPERS

CODE **9548**

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Irrespective of how well staff prepare students for the AQA exam papers in A-Level Physics, each year many marks are lost because of poor exam technique or quite simply students not knowing exactly what a question is asking for.

This new course will look at the different types of questions featured across the 3 exam papers and how the initial reading and dissecting of a question is key to actually answering the question in the way that the question setter intended it to be answered.

There will be examples of answers from across a range of units to illustrate the differences between high scoring answers and mediocre answers, which, when grade boundaries are very 'tight', could mean the loss of one or more grade.

Other common exam technique errors will also be addressed, and strategies introduced to help students monitor improvement in their exam technique.

A methodology for marking, grading and evaluating student work will be introduced.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Introduction to Ways to Prepare Students for Examination

10.00 – 11.00am

- Overview of good practice in preparation for any exam series; reflection, knowledge and skills audit, action plan, set targets and reflect/review regularly using trackers, long term planning, question matrix per each topic/paper, revision aids
- Using historical centre-based information to address issues with the current cohort
- Identifying the common pitfalls that students make at both ends of the ability spectrum and ways to avoid this

Discussion: coffee break

11.00 – 11.15am

Exploring the Different Type of Questions Across the Exam Papers

11.15 – 12.30pm

- Identifying the range of question types; multiple choice, short structured, longer structured, data response and extended synoptic questions
- Developing student's exam skills; scaffolding, fill in gaps, part paragraphs, so-called model answers, write a mid-band response, structure strips, essay feedback sheets, using technology (visualisers), and developing literacy
- Deepening the understanding of command words and the impact on an answer and subsequent marks gained when the command word in a question is not accurately addressed

Lunch and informal discussion

12.30 – 1.30pm

Extracting the Correct Information from the Question

1.30 – 2.30pm

- A question is more than just a test of subject knowledge – how to ensure that students dissect a question correctly
- Strategies to standardise the dissection of a question across different units, irrespective of the member of staff delivering the area of the specification
- Strategies for selecting appropriate content and utilising effective presentation for both structured and extended synoptic questions
- How students can monitor their own exam technique in homework and assessment tasks

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.30 – 2.45pm

Accurate Staff and Peer Marking

2.45 – 3.30pm

- How to approach teaching A-Level exam skills with confidence
- The use of appropriate and meaningful annotation to give students the greatest amount of accurate information to help them improve their answers

LOCATION/DATE

London

Friday 22 March 2024

COURSE LEADER

Alessio Bernardelli has over 18 years of teaching experience and has worked as Head of KS3 Science and Head of Physics. He also worked as Science Subject Lead at TSL Education (TES) and as National Support Programme Partner in Wales with CfBT. He has recently completed an MSc in Teacher Education at the University of Oxford, he is a Chartered Science Teacher (CSciTeach) and a Chartered Physicist (CPhys), as well as a Senior Facilitator with STEM Learning.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Heads of Science Departments
- Teachers who deliver any of the units for AQA A-Level Physics

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Identify the main areas where students lose marks when answering exam questions
- Identify the range of question types across all three exam papers
- Focus on how to extract information from a question to allow access to all the marks available
- Analysing how; a lack of examples, repetition of information, failure to focus on key terms, insufficient points and vague comments can impact the final outcome
- Develop strategies for student self-monitoring and evaluation of their exam technique
- Develop an understanding of accurate staff and peer marking

NEW TO TEACHING AQA A-LEVEL PHYSICS

CODE **9312**

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course is designed for teachers who are new to teaching AQA A-Level Physics, or who wish to improve their understanding to enable their students to achieve higher grades. The sessions are designed to improve delegates' understanding of AQA A-Level Physics specification and ensure that candidates have the best opportunity to maximise their potential grades.

Delegates will receive new teaching approaches as well as key guidance in how to develop exceptional examination and practical techniques in AQA A-Level Physics to maximise students' success when delivering the course for the first time.

PROGRAMME

Introduction: identifying methods that will enhance performance from the start

10.00 – 11.15am

- Overview of the specification – introducing the scheme of work and baseline assessment
- Analysing the assessment criteria and looking how to incorporate AO1, AO2 and AO3 in your lessons
- Recognising which areas will be the most challenging and preparing for these
- Identifying your support network and making the most of it

Discussion: coffee break

11.15 – 11.30am

Tackling the Challenging Content of AQA A-Level Physics

11.30 – 12.15pm

- Planning and teaching the more demanding topics – what these are and how to factor them into your teaching
- Making complicated concepts easy
- Teaching ideas, related questions and supporting resources to help improve student understanding
- Teaching for the different types of questions, with examples, so that you can help students access all the available marks
- Designing formative assessment and feedback through focussed starters and plenaries into your teaching

Strategies and Approaches to teaching the toughest topics

12.15 – 1.15pm

- Why are these so challenging for many students?
- Planning for success, teaching methodologies and using retrieval practice to boost student performance
- Teaching ideas with associated questions and resources
- Getting students involved in their learning – making theory 'practical'

Lunch and informal discussion

1.15 – 2.15pm

Managing the Required Practical Activities

2.15 – 3.15pm

- What you have to teach and what the students have to do
- The AQA standard at different grades and getting your students to reach it
- How to structure a programme of practical teaching and assessment that helps your students gain the best marks
- Structured v Investigative approaches – finding the opportunities
- Techniques to help students construct excellent written responses in the exams: where and why they can struggle in A-Level with this skill

Effectively tackling the Exam Papers

3.15 – 3.45pm

- How to approach teaching A-level exam skills with confidence
- Teaching towards the 'endgame', what language to use, ensure you are marking 'like the examiner' and secure grading
- Focus on essay structure in exams, how to pick up easy marks, and what top grade responses look like
- Marking and assessment strategies: supporting students to access the higher-level grades
- Extended answers – ideas for development

LOCATION/DATE

London

Thursday 29 February 2024

Thursday 13 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Alessio Bernardelli has over 18 years of teaching experience and has worked as Head of KS3 Science and Head of Physics. He also worked as Science Subject Lead at TSL Education (TES) and as National Support Programme Partner in Wales with CfBT. He has recently completed an MSc in Teacher Education at the University of Oxford, he is a Chartered Science Teacher (CSciTeach) and a Chartered Physicist (CPhys), as well as a Senior Facilitator with STEM Learning.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- All teachers new, or nearly new, to teaching AQA A-Level Physics
- Those who lack confidence, or who feel they would benefit from a refresher course

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Obtain excellent understanding of the complexities of the AQA A-Level Physics specification
- Gain insight into the content, the exam structure and how the exams are marked
- Develop your teaching in specific topic areas to raise standard of achievement
- Examples of extended A-Level questions: how to prepare students to get the most possible marks

AIMING FOR A/A* IN AQA A-LEVEL PHYSICS

CODE **9313**

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This new course will demonstrate how to guide your best students to achieve Grades A & A* in future AQA A-Level Physics examinations. The course will explore the characteristics of A/A* students identified in research and why and how we must challenge our most able Physics students.

Focused extensively on evidence-based teaching, learning and assessment practice as well as feedback from the most recent exams, you will leave with a vast range of resources and practical strategies that will enable you to meet the needs of your most able students and ultimately increase A and A* grade attainment.

Finally, we will look beyond the course to focus on preparing these students to continue studying Physics at university.

PROGRAMME

Challenging our most able students

10.00 – 10.45am

- Who are our most able students?
- Why do we have to challenge our most able students?
- How are A/A* achieved?

Discussion: coffee break

10.45 – 11.00am

Focus on assessment demands for A/A* students

11.00 – 12.00pm

- Examine the assessment demands of all components including the use of assessment objectives as a framework for assessment
- Consider the most effective models for delivery of the course to ensure effective assessment
- Feedback and grading analysis from the most recent exam. What is required for A/A*?
- Analysis of mark schemes – which sections/questions differentiated candidates?
- Grades A & A*: what are the differences between these?
- Key attributes of Grade A/A* students in the classroom
- Avoiding potential hazards: what can cost a top student their A/A* grade?

Structuring an excellent teaching course

12.00 – 1.00pm

- Developing a deep understanding of core Physics concepts
- Supporting students to write top band answers to 6 mark “explain” questions
- Developing a personalised approach to note taking to support recall
- Applying Physics concepts to consistently write top band evaluation
- Activating prior knowledge to improve retention of key topic areas

Lunch and informal discussion

1.00 – 2.00pm

Stretching and Challenging the most able students

2.00 – 3.00pm

- Moving on from GCSE approaches – encouraging students to become sensitive readers
- Using wider reading to prepare for exams
- What makes a strong A-Level response? How can we build up to this?
- Working up to full 6-mark questions, and using them to stretch students
- Planning with and designing support for students aiming for top grades
- Extra-curricular ideas that help get A and A*

Discussion: afternoon tea

3.00 – 3.05pm

Tactics for achieving the highest grades

3.05 – 3.30pm

- Develop an action plan for success for students aiming for top grades
- The shorter questions: what are the potential pitfalls?
- Focus on the extended questions: what does a grade A/A* candidate need to do?
- Varying response practice to stretch the most able
- Revision ideas to help students produce high grade answers

LOCATION/DATE

London

Thursday 14 March 2024

COURSE LEADER

Alessio Bernardelli has over 18 years of teaching experience and has worked as Head of KS3 Science and Head of Physics. He also worked as Science Subject Lead at TSL Education (TES) and as National Support Programme Partner in Wales with CfBT. He has recently completed an MSc in Teacher Education at the University of Oxford, he is a Chartered Science Teacher (CSciTeach) and a Chartered Physicist (CPhys), as well as a Senior Facilitator with STEM Learning.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Teachers of AQA A-Level Physics
- Heads of Physics/Science
- Aspiring Heads of Physics/Science
- Teachers with responsibility for A-Level Physics

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Increase awareness of what teacher should aim to achieve with the most able Physicists
- Gain the latest evidence-based practice that challenges A/A* students
- Develop greater understanding of what examiners are looking for in Grade A/A* responses
- Take away a range of innovative teaching ideas and electronic resources for your most able students
- Learn how to develop resilience so that talented Physics students achieve their A/A* potential
- Focused on identifying the demands of Grades A & A* and providing materials to help teachers prepare students effectively
- A detailed look at the different demands of questions

AIMING FOR A/A* IN OCR A-LEVEL PHYSICS

CODE 9316

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This new course will demonstrate how to guide your best students to achieve Grades A & A* in future OCR A-level Physics examinations. The course will explore the characteristics of A/A* students identified in research and why and how we must challenge our most able Physics students.

Focused extensively on evidence-based teaching, learning and assessment practice as well as feedback from the most recent exams, you will leave with a vast range of resources and practical strategies that will enable you to meet the needs of your most able students and ultimately increase A and A* grade attainment.

Finally, we will look beyond the course to focus on preparing these students to continue studying Physics at university.

PROGRAMME

Challenging our most able students

10.00 – 10.45am

- Who are our most able students?
- Why do we have to challenge our most able students?
- How are A/A* Grades achieved?

Discussion: coffee break

10.45 – 11.00am

Focus on assessment demands for A/A* students

11.00 – 12.00pm

- Examine the assessment demands of all components including the use of assessment objectives as a framework for assessment
- Consider the most effective models for delivery of the course to ensure effective assessment
- Feedback and grading analysis from the most recent exam. What is required for A/A*?
- Analysis of mark schemes – which sections/questions differentiated candidates?
- Grades A & A*: what are the differences between these?
- Key attributes of Grade A/A* students in the classroom
- Avoiding potential hazards: what can cost a top student their A/A* grade?

The key challenges for A/A* students in the Papers

12.00 – 1.00pm

- Developing a deep understanding of core Physics concepts
- Supporting students to write top band essays
- Developing a personalised approach to note taking to support recall
- Applying Physics concepts to consistently write top band evaluation
- Activating prior knowledge to improve retention of key topic areas

Lunch and informal discussion

1.00 – 2.00pm

Stretching and Challenging the most able students

2.00 – 3.00pm

- Moving on from GCSE approaches – encouraging students to become sensitive readers
- Using wider reading to prepare for exams
- What makes a strong A-Level response? How can we build up to this?
- Working up to full essay questions, and using them to stretch students
- Planning with and designing support for students aiming for top grades
- Extra-curricular ideas that help get A and A* grades

Discussion: afternoon tea

3.00 – 3.10pm

Tactics for achieving the highest grades

3.10 – 3.40pm

- Develop an action plan for success for students aiming for top grades
- The shorter questions: what are the potential pitfalls?
- Focus on the extended questions and essays: what does a grade A/A* candidate need to do?
- Varying response practice to stretch the most able
- Revision ideas to help students produce high grade essays

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 13 March 2024

Tuesday 02 July 2024

COURSE LEADER

Alessio Bernardelli has over 18 years of teaching experience and has worked as Head of KS3 Science and Head of Physics. He also worked as Science Subject Lead at TSL Education (TES) and as National Support Programme Partner in Wales with CfBT. He has recently completed an MSc in Teacher Education at the University of Oxford, he is a Chartered Science Teacher (CSciTeach) and a Chartered Physicist (CPhys), as well as a Senior Facilitator with STEM Learning.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Teachers of OCR A-Level Physics
- Heads of Physics/Science
- Aspiring Heads of Physics/Science
- Teachers with responsibility for A-Level Physics

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Increase awareness of what teacher should aim to achieve with the most able Physicists
- Gain the latest evidence-based practice that challenges A/A* students
- Develop greater understanding of what examiners are looking for in Grade A/A* responses
- Take away a range of innovative teaching ideas and electronic resources for your most able students
- Learn how to develop resilience so that talented Physics students achieve their A/A* potential
- Focused on identifying the demands of Grades A & A* and providing materials to help teachers prepare students effectively
- A detailed look at the different demands of questions

TEACHING GCSE BIOLOGY FOR THE FIRST TIME

CODE **9549**

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This new course provides teachers new to teaching GCSE Biology, useful information based on examiner reports from the most recent exams, including numerous strategies to create excellent, creative and safe Biology teaching for students of all ability levels.

Offering an introduction and overview of GCSE Biology, providing essential skills and tips in how to effectively deliver content, ensuring maximum student engagement and maximum attainment. The course is suitable for anyone just starting to teach, in their first few years of teaching or lacking confidence in teaching GCSE Biology.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Understanding and Structuring GCSE Biology

10.00 – 10.40am

- Key topics, concepts, and learning outcomes for teaching GCSE Biology
- Exploring the progression of topics and building connections between concepts
- Planning your course and establishing your teaching for student success
- Examine the different question types used in Biology exams
- Examiner findings from the 2023 exams and the significance for classroom practice

Innovative Ways to Teach the Complex Elements of GCSE Biology

10.40 – 11.25am

- Strategies and teaching methods to ensure students understand the fundamentals underpinning GCSE Biology
- Sequencing and cascading topics successfully
- Innovative ways to teach the complex elements of GCSE Biology
- Analysis and problem-solving strategies, especially for less able students
- Addressing common misconceptions and challenging topics
- Encouraging student questions and fostering intellectual curiosity in Biology
- How to get students to think at GCSE level and above throughout the course

Discussion: coffee break

11.25 – 11.45am

Outstanding Pedagogy: Absorbing and Interactive Learning to Enhance Student Engagement

11.45 – 12.30pm

- Principles of effective lesson planning: objectives, structure, and differentiation
- Designing engaging and interactive learning activities for different topics
- Integrating real-world applications of Biology to enhance student engagement
- Establishing a positive and inclusive classroom environment
- Strategies for managing behaviour, engaging reluctant learners, and promoting active participation
- Incorporating digital tools, simulations and online resources

Lunch and informal discussion

12.30 – 1.30pm

Practical Work and Laboratory

1.30 – 2.15pm

- Identifying the essential practical experiments and integrating them into lessons effectively
- Adapting experiments to different classroom settings and available resources, ensuring laboratory safety: guidelines, risk assessments, and best practices

Assessment, Marking and Feedback: Getting the Best out of your Students

2.15 – 2.55pm

- Exploring diverse assessment methods: formative, summative and self-assessment
- What are examiners looking for in student responses?
- Practical advice and guidance on making the exam accessible to all students
- Common questions and question types and how to construct your own that align with GCSE Biology specifications
- How to prepare students for answering longer response questions
- Providing constructive feedback to support student progress and development

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.55 – 3.00pm

Preparing for the Exams

3.00 – 3.15pm

- Adaptive teaching methods to stretch and support all students in the run up to the exams
- Revision strategies and methods that really work
- Teaching resilience and grit
- Bullet point an action plan to implement upon returning to school

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 06 March 2024

Friday 21 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Prishilla Narindar is currently Deputy head of Faculty and Science lead at Henry Cort College. With over 10 years' experience in KS3 and KS4 science curriculum delivery in mainstream education and private tuition, she has led the local Science GCSE collaboration development group that partners with 8 schools and colleges. She has also successfully led active learning, cognitive load association and assessment workshops whilst coaching PGCE and ITT students for local partnerships.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Newly qualified GCSE Biology Teachers
- Biology teachers teaching outside their specialism

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Develop excellent practices to use with all of your classes especially during practical lessons
- Gain an insight into methods that allows pupils across the ability range to access Biology at GCSE level
- Learn how to differentiate material quickly and easily for excellent teaching
- Explore how to increase the attainment of all your pupils and involve them in the target setting process
- Deepened understanding of GCSE Biology and its key concepts
- Enhanced pedagogical skills for explaining complex Biology topics
- Practical strategies to engage students, manage classrooms, and assess progress effectively

CODE **9304**

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course, designed for all teachers of GCSE Biology is focused on meeting the demands of the higher-level marking bands. It will focus on exploring the characteristics of work produced by students working at the highest levels and examine a range of teaching materials designed to secure the best possible outcomes.

The course will cover what is expected of high ability students and outline ways in order to successfully build on your own teaching practice and embed new methods of working.

Using examples of pupils' work and model answers throughout, the course will look at the common features of top-level work. The course will also demonstrate teaching approaches for the toughest topics, leading up to preparing pupils for the examinations.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Focus on assessment demands for Grades 7-9, including feedback

10.00 – 11.00am

- Examine the assessment demands of all components including the use of assessment objectives as a framework for assessment
- Consider the most effective models for delivery of the course to ensure effective assessment practice across 2 years and in both components
- Review characteristics of Grade 7-9 GCSE Biology students in the GCSE
- Lessons learnt from the 2022 examination series – what students need to do to ensure that they achieve the highest grades in 2023

Discussion: coffee break

11.00 – 11.15am

Achieving top grades in Paper 1

11.15 – 12.30pm

- Review example Paper 1 responses at Grades 7-9: what top level students do
- Exploring the content of this paper that will particularly fire the imagination of very able students
- Differentiated teaching approaches for Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics which stretch and challenge the very able students
- Characteristics of the most successful candidates in this component
- Approaches to the open response questions – ways to develop the skills required
- What examiners are looking for in questions on Paper 1
- Examples of outstanding answers
- What moves a student on from a grade 7 – to grades 8 and 9 on the exam

Lunch and informal discussion

12.30 – 1.30pm

Aiming for grades 7-9 in Paper 2

1.30 – 2.30pm

- Teaching to the key characteristics demonstrated by able students which examiners look for
- Identifying and understanding question types on Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology
- Examining strong exemplar responses to the focussed extract questions for this section
- What examiners are looking for in questions on Paper 2
- What moves a student from Grade 7 to Grades 8 and 9 on the exam
- How to support students in developing a top grade response

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.30 – 2.40pm

Exams: Tactics for achieving the highest grades

2.40 – 3.15pm

- What are the most common errors made by higher ability pupils?
- Revision ideas to help pupils achieve the highest grades.
- How to maximise the available time in the examination
- Reviewing, marking and feeding back on specimen scripts
- Giving good quality, specific feedback to students

Beyond the classroom: ideas for the most able GCSE Biologist

3.15 – 3.30pm

- Different ideas to keep the pupils interested
- Stretch and challenge without intimidation
- Beyond the classroom and the curriculum: educational visits and trips
- Looking ahead to Biology A-Level

LOCATION/DATE

London

Thursday 14 March 2024

Tuesday 09 July 2024

COURSE LEADER

Prishilla Narindar is currently Deputy head of Faculty and Science lead at Henry Cort College. With over 10 years' experience in KS3 and KS4 science curriculum delivery in mainstream education and private tuition, she has led the local Science GCSE collaboration development group that partners with 8 schools and colleges. She has also successfully led active learning, cognitive load association and assessment workshops whilst coaching PGCE and ITT students for local partnerships.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Heads of Science/Biology
- Teachers of AQA GCSE Biology
- Teachers aiming to boost the higher achievers

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Develop an understanding of the level descriptors and how pupils should apply them
- Discuss sample answers at grade 7 – 9 to identify key characteristics, and the approach of the examiner
- Increase awareness of why top students underachieve
- Provide and discuss different ways of teaching a content-heavy course
- Develop an understanding of the potential hazards students face when studying GCSE Biology

NEW: OUTSTANDING GCSE CHEMISTRY: TACKLING THE TOUGHEST TOPICS

CODE 9659

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This brand-new course will explore the more difficult to teach topics in AQA GCSE Chemistry and is designed for all teachers who wish to ensure their students maximise their potential.

By providing a range of fresh and innovative teaching approaches to help students achieve a greater depth of understanding in these areas, the course aims to help teachers foster outstanding teaching, learning and achievement and raise the overall attainment of their classes.

Emphasis is placed on the content students (and occasionally teachers) often struggle with, the tough topics and strategies and approaches needed to teach them more successfully, how to wrestle with the challenges of the synoptic nature of the course and skills students need for successful exam performance.

Focused extensively on evidence-based teaching, learning and assessment practice as well as feedback from the most recent exams, you will leave with a vast range of resources and practical strategies that will enable you to meet the needs of your students and ultimately increase grade attainment.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Using Metacognition techniques to tackle the tricky content

10.00 – 11.30am

- Activating prior knowledge to improve retention of key topic areas
- Understanding how current pedagogy can be embedded into teaching to reduce the misconceptions and increase the confidence in the classroom
- Simplifying the GCSE exam to utilise mental models techniques to scaffold student responses
- Effectively teaching practical skills and comprehension so that students can maximise marks in levelled questions

Discussion: coffee break

11.30 – 11.45am

Aiming for top grades in Paper 1; Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding and Structure, Calculations including Titrations, Chemical changes including OILRIG and half equations

11.45 – 12.45pm

- Scaffold calculations to provide a fool-proof method for students to follow
- How can mental models and long-term memory help access the hardest calculation questions?
- Teaching for success; both challenging more able students and supporting lower attainment students to ensure they all achieve their potential

Lunch and informal discussion

12.45 – 1.30pm

Aiming for top grades in Paper 2; Rates and Le Chatelier, Organic Chemistry and Polymers, Identifying Ions, The Atmosphere, Using Resources including the Haber Process

1.30 – 2.30pm

- How to simplify teaching of these topics with mental models to facilitate understanding
- Levelled questions; how are they marked and how can you help your students succeed
- Avoiding potential hazards – what can cost a top student their grade 9?

Exam technique skills that make the difference

2.30 – 3.00pm

- Dissecting examination questions- vocabulary & command words
- Strategies to improve responses to exam questions and signposting
- How to bring all the content together to prepare for the exam; Revision strategiesthat work!
- Understand from an Examiner the common mistakes that students make and how can you ensure that this does not impact on their exam

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 12 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dee Martin is Head of Chemistry & STEM at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham, an Academy with a non-selective intake. She is an experienced AQA A-Level Chemistry examiner and currently delivers revision courses to many schools across the country guiding teachers in preparing for exams and helping to raise student grades.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Non-specialist Teachers of GCSE Chemistry
- New and Experienced Teachers of GCSE Chemistry
- Heads of Chemistry
- Heads of Science

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Focus on an area you teach and learn how to make synoptic links to other areas
- Receive informed lesson ideas and resources to make delivery easier and more effective
- Focus on key errors and mistakes that are commonly made
- Learn from previous marks schemes/ average scores attained and how issues can be addressed
- Network with fellow professionals
- Clarify any misconceptions in depth and theoretical application
- Gain an Examiner's insight into the common mistakes made for these key topics

NEW: GCSE CHEMISTRY: INCREASED RESULTS FOR LOWER PERFORMING STUDENTS

CODE 9658

ABOUT THIS COURSE

For Combined students, the academic level and volume of content in the new Chemistry Combined GCSE can have a detrimental effect on their overall Science grade.

This brand-new course is aimed at teachers working with mixed ability and lower attaining students who are looking to maximise the student potential in their Combined and Triple Chemistry GCSE. The course covers a range of effective teaching and assessment strategies, monitoring, early intervention and exam technique and approaches that improve confidence, effort and achievement. The course provides a comprehensive toolkit that adds value and will help learners excel in their exam performance. The course is designed for teachers of AQA GCSE Chemistry, but would be of benefit to teachers of other exam boards as well.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Understanding the issue

10.00 – 11.30am

- Using current pedagogy to understand why do less able students struggle with the Chemistry content
- How to embed subject knowledge and assess understanding so that lower ability learners thrive
- Developing synoptic skills to understand and link key concepts
- Effectively teaching practical skills and comprehension so that students can maximise marks in levelled questions
- Monitoring & early intervention strategies that positively impact on student performance
- Planning your teaching order for students to learn the basics and encourage confidence

Discussion: coffee break

11.30 – 11.45am

Identifying the Topics in Paper 1 that cause issues and finding solutions

11.45 – 12.45pm

- Breaking down the Periodic Table
- The language of structure and bonding; and how to reduce the number of lessons to embed the fundamental concepts
- Calculations; methods to help students understand the content that will make the difference
- Ideas and activities to embed the key terms
- Strategies to improve exam technique in practical-based questions

Lunch and informal discussion

12.45 – 1.30pm

Identifying the Topics in Paper 2 that cause issues and finding solutions

1.30 – 2.30pm

- The language of Le Chatelier to facilitate understanding in all students
- Embedding the basics; pure, formulations, chromatography and gas tests
- Explore how the atmosphere and pollutants can be demystified
- Making Potable water and LCA's interesting
- Ideas and activities to embed the key terms
- Strategies to improve exam technique in practical-based question

Exam technique skills that make the difference

2.30 – 3.00pm

- Embed exam technique into your teaching to enhance the performance of lower ability students
- Driving student progress through marking and feedback
- Methods to help students understand how the exam are marked and ways to help students use this knowledge
- Understand from an Examiner the key areas where weaker students lose marks

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 24 April 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dee Martin is Head of Chemistry & STEM at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham, an Academy with a non-selective intake. She is an experienced AQA A-Level Chemistry examiner and currently delivers revision courses to many schools across the country guiding teachers in preparing for exams and helping to raise student grades.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Non-specialist Teachers of GCSE Chemistry
- New and Experienced Teachers of GCSE Chemistry
- Heads of Chemistry
- Heads of Science

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Utilise techniques to quickly identify underperformance and implement effective support strategies for success
- Increased understanding of how to motivate underachieving learners and improve exam performance
- How to teach challenging topics
- Techniques for tackling synoptic and data handling questions with confidence
- Develop effective teaching and learning techniques to help lower ability learners to retain knowledge and better understand concepts
- How to prepare your students for questions examining the required practicals
- Equip you with strategies to support students and accelerate their progress

NEW: TRANSITION FROM GCSE TO A LEVEL CHEMISTRY: REDUCING THE MISCONCEPTIONS

CODE 9660

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course is aimed at teachers working with mixed ability students who are looking to increase the uptake of A level Chemistry and ensure the building blocks are in place to access top marks in both GCSE and A level examinations. The course covers a range of effective teaching and assessment strategies, monitoring, early intervention and exam technique and approaches that improve confidence, effort and achievement. The course provides a comprehensive toolkit that adds value and will help learners excel in their GCSE and AS exam performance.

PROGRAMME

What is the issue?

- Understanding the similarities and differences from a student's perspective moving from GCSE to A level Chemistry
- How utilising pedagogy can help break down the learning
- Implementing lesson plans to ensure that students understand key concepts.
- Develop effective techniques to help lower ability learners to retain knowledge and develop skills.
- Lesson strategies that address difficult concepts where students experience difficulties

Discussion: coffee break

Monitoring & early intervention strategies that positively impact on student performance and engagement

- Techniques to quickly identify underperforming students and implement strategies to effectively support them.
- Using a range of monitoring tools to track performance, recognise underachievement and motivate learners.
- Explore early intervention strategies that engage learners and develop independent learning skills
- Implementing mastery tests to identify students who haven't grasped the fundamental concepts
- Driving student progress through marking and feedback.

Lunch and informal discussion

The Exams: Practical Strategies to raise attainment levels and enhance exam performance

- Embed exam technique into your teaching to enhance the performance of all ability students
- Explore assessment strategies to help learners identify where they need to improve and how to achieve this.
- How to effectively use feedback.
- Methods to help students understand how the exam are marked and ways to help students use this knowledge
- How to tackle questions set in both a theoretical and practical context.
- Improve your students' confidence in being able to analyse, interpret and evaluate information, data and ideas.

How to ensure practical skills are developed ready for KS5 and effectively utilised in exam questions

- Strategies to enable students to demonstrate these competencies consistently and routinely
- Developing and assessing the more challenging skills e.g. opportunities for students to select equipment and measurement strategies or to make adjustments when necessary.
- Researching, referencing and reporting – skill-building ideas to develop students' competence in using secondary sources to support planning and conclusion

Exam Success: Preparing students for the Practical assessments

- Using the language of measurement – ideas and activities to embed the key terms
- Strategies to improve exam technique in practical-based questions
- Examples of questions testing different assessment objectives

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 19 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Dee Martin is Head of Chemistry & STEM at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham, an Academy with a non-selective intake. She is an experienced AQA A-Level Chemistry examiner and currently delivers revision courses to many schools across the country guiding teachers in preparing for exams and helping to raise student grades.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Non-specialist teachers of GCSE Chemistry
- Heads of Department
- Academic leads for Chemistry
- Prospective or new teachers of A-Level Chemistry

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Understand why students struggle with both GCSE and A level Chemistry and how to break down and simplify learning
- How to teach challenging topics
- Utilise techniques to quickly identify underperformance and implement effective support strategies for success
- Increased understanding of how to motivate underachieving learners and improve exam performance
- Techniques for tackling synoptic and data handling questions with confidence
- Develop effective teaching and learning techniques to help lower ability learners to retain knowledge and better understand concepts
- Gain insight into the content, the exam structure and the how exams are marked

TEACHING GCSE CHEMISTRY FOR THE FIRST TIME

CODE 9550

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This new course provides teachers new to teaching GCSE Chemistry, useful information based on examiner reports from the most recent exams, including numerous strategies to create excellent, creative and safe Chemistry teaching for students of all ability levels.

Offering an introduction and overview of GCSE Chemistry, providing essential skills and tips in how to effectively deliver content, ensuring maximum student engagement and maximum attainment. The course is suitable for anyone just starting to teach, in their first few years of teaching or lacking confidence in teaching GCSE Chemistry.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Understanding and Structuring GCSE Chemistry

10.00 – 10.40am

- Key topics, concepts, and learning outcomes for teaching GCSE Chemistry
- Exploring the progression of topics and building connections between concepts
- Planning your course and establishing your teaching for student success
- Examine the different question types used in Chemistry exams
- Examiner findings from the 2023 exams and the significance for classroom practice

Innovative Ways to Teach the Complex Elements of GCSE Chemistry

10.40 – 11.25am

- Strategies and teaching methods to ensure students understand the fundamentals underpinning GCSE Chemistry
- Sequencing and cascading topics successfully
- Innovative ways to teach the complex elements of GCSE Chemistry
- Analysis and problem-solving strategies, especially for less able students
- Addressing common misconceptions and challenging topics
- Encouraging student questions and fostering intellectual curiosity in Chemistry
- How to get students to think at GCSE level and above throughout the course

Discussion: coffee break

11.25 – 11.45am

Outstanding Pedagogy: Absorbing and Interactive Learning to Enhance Student Engagement

11.45 – 12.30pm

- Principles of effective lesson planning: objectives, structure, and differentiation
- Designing engaging and interactive learning activities for different topics
- Integrating real-world applications of Chemistry to enhance student engagement
- Establishing a positive and inclusive classroom environment
- Strategies for managing behaviour, engaging reluctant learners, and promoting active participation
- Incorporating digital tools, simulations and online resources

Lunch and informal discussion

12.30 – 1.30pm

Practical Work and Laboratory

1.30 – 2.15pm

- Identifying the essential practical experiments and integrating them into lessons effectively
- Adapting experiments to different classroom settings and available resources, ensuring laboratory safety: guidelines, risk assessments, and best practices

Assessment, Marking and Feedback: Getting the Best out of your Students

2.15 – 2.55pm

- Exploring diverse assessment methods: formative, summative and self-assessment
- What are examiners looking for in student responses?
- Practical advice and guidance on making the exam accessible to all students
- Common questions and question types and how to construct your own that align with GCSE Chemistry specifications
- How to prepare students for answering longer response questions
- Providing constructive feedback to support student progress and development

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.55 – 3.00pm

Preparing for the Exams

3.00 – 3.15pm

- Adaptive teaching methods to stretch and support all students in the run up to the exams
- Revision strategies and methods that really work
- Teaching resilience and grit
- Bullet point an action plan to implement upon returning to school

LOCATION/DATE

London

Tuesday 05 March 2023

Tuesday 25 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Prishilla Narindar is currently Deputy head of Faculty and Science lead at Henry Cort College. With over 10 years' experience in KS3 and KS4 science curriculum delivery in mainstream education and private tuition, she has led the local Science GCSE collaboration development group that partners with 8 schools and colleges. She has also successfully led active learning, cognitive load association and assessment workshops whilst coaching PGCE and ITT students for local partnerships.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Newly qualified GCSE Chemistry Teachers
- Chemistry teachers teaching outside their specialism

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Develop excellent practices to use with all of your classes especially during practical lessons
- Gain an insight into methods that allows pupils across the ability range to access Chemistry at GCSE level
- Learn how to differentiate material quickly and easily for excellent teaching
- Explore how to increase the attainment of all your pupils and involve them in the target setting process
- Deepened understanding of GCSE Chemistry and its key concepts
- Enhanced pedagogical skills for explaining complex Chemistry topics
- Practical strategies to engage students, manage classrooms, and assess progress effectively

GCSE CHEMISTRY: AIMING FOR GRADES 7-9

CODE 9311

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course, designed for all teachers of GCSE Chemistry is focused on meeting the demands of the higher-level marking bands. It will focus on exploring the characteristics of work produced by students working at the highest levels and examine a range of teaching materials designed to secure the best possible outcomes.

The course will cover what is expected of high ability students and outline ways in order to successfully build on your own teaching practice and embed new methods of working.

Using examples of pupils' work and model answers throughout, the course will look at the common features of top-level work. The course will also demonstrate teaching approaches for the toughest topics, leading up to preparing pupils for the examinations.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Focus on assessment demands for Grades 7-9, including feedback

10.00 – 11.00am

- Examine the assessment demands of all components including the use of assessment objectives as a framework for assessment
- Consider the most effective models for delivery of the course to ensure effective assessment practice across 2 years and in both components
- Review characteristics of Grade 7-9 GCSE Chemistry students in the GCSE
- Lessons learnt from the 2022 examination series – what students need to do to ensure that they achieve the highest grades in 2023

Discussion: coffee break

11.00 – 11.15am

Achieving top grades in Paper 1

11.15 – 12.30pm

- Review example Paper 1 responses at Grades 7-9: what top level students do
- Exploring the content of this paper that will particularly fire the imagination of very able students
- Differentiated teaching approaches for Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes; and Energy changes which stretch and challenge the very able students
- Characteristics of the most successful candidates in this component
- Approaches to the open response questions – ways to develop the skills required
- What examiners are looking for in questions on Paper 1
- Examples of outstanding answers
- What moves a student on from a grade 7 – to grades 8 and 9 on the exam

Lunch and informal discussion

12.30 – 1.30pm

Aiming for grades 7-9 in Paper 2

1.30 – 2.30pm

- Teaching to the key characteristics demonstrated by able students which examiners look for
- Identifying and understanding question types on the rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources
- Examining strong exemplar responses to the focussed extract questions for this section
- What examiners are looking for in questions on Paper 2
- What moves a student from Grade 7 to Grades 8 and 9 on the exam
- How to support students in developing a top-grade response

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.30 – 2.40pm

Exams: Tactics for achieving the highest grades

2.40 – 3.15pm

- What are the most common errors made by higher ability pupils?
- Revision ideas to help pupils achieve the highest grades.
- How to maximise the available time in the examination
- Reviewing, marking and feeding back on specimen scripts
- Giving good quality, specific feedback to students

Beyond the classroom: ideas for the most able GCSE Chemists

3.15 – 3.30pm

- Different ideas to keep the pupils interested
- Stretch and challenge without intimidation
- Beyond the classroom and the curriculum: educational visits and trips
- Looking ahead to Chemistry A-Level

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 10 July 2024

COURSE LEADER

Prishilla Narindar is currently Deputy head of Faculty and Science lead at Henry Cort College. With over 10 years' experience in KS3 and KS4 science curriculum delivery in mainstream education and private tuition, she has led the local Science GCSE collaboration development group that partners with 8 schools and colleges. She has also successfully led active learning, cognitive load association and assessment workshops whilst coaching PGCE and ITT students for local partnerships.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Heads of Science/Chemistry
- Teachers of AQA GCSE Chemistry
- Teachers aiming to boost the higher achievers

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Develop an understanding of the level descriptors and how pupils should apply them
- Discuss sample answers at grade 7 – 9 to identify key characteristics, and the approach of the examiner
- Increase awareness of why top students underachieve
- Provide and discuss different ways of teaching a content-heavy course
- Develop an understanding of the potential hazards students face when studying GCSE Chemistry

TEACHING GCSE PHYSICS FOR THE FIRST TIME

CODE **9551**

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This new course provides teachers new to teaching GCSE Physics, useful information based on examiner reports from the most recent exams, including numerous strategies to create excellent, creative and safe Physics teaching for students of all ability levels.

Offering an introduction and overview of GCSE Physics, providing essential skills and tips in how to effectively deliver content, ensuring maximum student engagement and maximum attainment. The course is suitable for anyone just starting to teach, in their first few years of teaching or lacking confidence in teaching GCSE Physics.

PROGRAMME

Understanding and Structuring GCSE Physics

TIME
10.00 – 10.40am

- Key topics, concepts, and learning outcomes for teaching GCSE Physics
- Exploring the progression of topics and building connections between concepts
- Planning your course and establishing your teaching for student success
- Examine the different question types used in Physics exams
- Examiner findings from the 2023 exams and the significance for classroom practice

Innovative Ways to Teach the Complex Elements of GCSE Physics

10.40 – 11.25am

- Strategies and teaching methods to ensure students understand the fundamentals underpinning GCSE Physics
- Sequencing and cascading topics successfully
- Innovative ways to teach the complex elements of GCSE Physics
- Analysis and problem-solving strategies, especially for less able students
- Addressing common misconceptions and challenging topics
- Encouraging student questions and fostering intellectual curiosity in Physics
- How to get students to think at GCSE level and above throughout the course

Discussion: coffee break

11.25 – 11.45am

Outstanding Pedagogy: Absorbing and Interactive Learning to Enhance Student Engagement

11.45 – 12.30pm

- Principles of effective lesson planning: objectives, structure, and differentiation
- Designing engaging and interactive learning activities for different topics
- Integrating real-world applications of Physics to enhance student engagement
- Establishing a positive and inclusive classroom environment
- Strategies for managing behaviour, engaging reluctant learners, and promoting active participation
- Incorporating digital tools, simulations and online resources

Lunch and informal discussion

12.30 – 1.30pm

Practical Work and Laboratory

1.30 – 2.15pm

- Identifying the essential practical experiments and integrating them into lessons effectively
- Adapting experiments to different classroom settings and available resources, ensuring laboratory safety: guidelines, risk assessments, and best practices

Assessment, Marking and Feedback: Getting the Best out of your Students

2.15 – 2.55pm

- Exploring diverse assessment methods: formative, summative and self-assessment
- What are examiners looking for in student responses?
- Practical advice and guidance on making the exam accessible to all students
- Common questions and question types and how to construct your own that align with GCSE Physics specifications
- How to prepare students for answering longer response questions
- Providing constructive feedback to support student progress and development

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.55 – 3.00pm

Preparing for the Exams

3.00 – 3.15pm

- Adaptive teaching methods to stretch and support all students in the run up to the exams
- Revision strategies and methods that really work
- Teaching resilience and grit
- Bullet point an action plan to implement upon returning to school

LOCATION/DATE

London

Monday 08 July 2024

COURSE LEADER

Alessio Bernardelli has over 18 years of teaching experience and has worked as Head of KS3 Science and Head of Physics. He also worked as Science Subject Lead at TSL Education (TES) and as National Support Programme Partner in Wales with CfBT. He has recently completed an MSc in Teacher Education at the University of Oxford, he is a Chartered Science Teacher (CSciTeach) and a Chartered Physicist (CPhys), as well as a Senior Facilitator with STEM Learning.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Newly qualified GCSE Physics Teachers
- Physics teachers teaching outside their specialism

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Develop excellent practices to use with all of your classes especially during practical lessons
- Gain an insight into methods that allows pupils across the ability range to access Physics at GCSE level
- Learn how to differentiate material quickly and easily for excellent teaching
- Explore how to increase the attainment of all your pupils and involve them in the target setting process
- Deepened understanding of GCSE Physics and its key concepts
- Enhanced pedagogical skills for explaining complex Physics topics
- Practical strategies to engage students, manage classrooms, and assess progress effectively

GCSE PHYSICS: AIMING FOR GRADES 7-9

CODE 9318

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course, designed for all teachers of GCSE Physics is focused on meeting the demands of the higher-level marking bands. It will focus on exploring the characteristics of work produced by students working at the highest levels and examine a range of teaching materials designed to secure the best possible outcomes.

The course will cover what is expected of high ability students and outline ways in order to successfully build on your own teaching practice and embed new methods of working.

Using examples of pupils' work and model answers throughout, the course will look at the common features of top-level work. The course will also demonstrate teaching approaches for the toughest topics, leading up to preparing pupils for the examinations.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Focus on assessment demands for Grades 7-9, including feedback

10.00 – 11.00am

- Examine the assessment demands of all components including the use of assessment objectives as a framework for assessment
- Consider the most effective models for delivery of the course to ensure effective assessment practice across 2 years and in both components
- Review characteristics of Grade 7-9 GCSE Physics students in the GCSE
- Lessons learnt from the 2022 examination series – what students need to do to ensure that they achieve the highest grades in 2023

Discussion: coffee break

11.00 – 11.15am

Achieving top grades in Paper 1

11.15 – 12.30pm

- Review example Paper 1 responses at Grades 7-9: what top level students do
- Exploring the content of this paper that will particularly fire the imagination of very able students
- Differentiated teaching approaches for Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and atomic structure which stretch and challenge the very able students
- Characteristics of the most successful candidates in this component
- Approaches to the open response questions – ways to develop the skills required
- What examiners are looking for in questions on Paper 1
- Examples of outstanding answers
- What moves a student on from a grade 7 – to grades 8 and 9 on the exam

Lunch and informal discussion

12.30 – 1.30pm

Aiming for grades 7-9 in Paper 2

1.30 – 2.30pm

- Teaching to the key characteristics demonstrated by able students which examiners look for
- Identifying and understanding question types on Forces; Waves; Magnetism and Electromagnetism; and Space Physics
- Examining strong exemplar responses to the focussed extract questions for this section
- What examiners are looking for in questions on Paper 2
- What moves a student from Grade 7 to Grades 8 and 9 on the exam
- How to support students in developing a top grade response

Discussion: afternoon tea

2.30 – 2.40pm

Exams: Tactics for achieving the highest grades

2.40 – 3.15pm

- What are the most common errors made by higher ability pupils?
- Revision ideas to help pupils achieve the highest grades.
- How to maximise the available time in the examination
- Reviewing, marking and feeding back on specimen scripts
- Giving good quality, specific feedback to students

Beyond the classroom: ideas for the most able GCSE Physicists

3.15 – 3.30pm

- Different ideas to keep the pupils interested
- Stretch and challenge without intimidation
- Beyond the classroom and the curriculum: educational visits and trips
- Looking ahead to Physics A-Level

LOCATION/DATE

London

Wednesday 20 March 2024

Wednesday 26 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Alessio Bernardelli has over 18 years of teaching experience and has worked as Head of KS3 Science and Head of Physics. He also worked as Science Subject Lead at TSL Education (TES) and as National Support Programme Partner in Wales with CfBT. He has recently completed an MSc in Teacher Education at the University of Oxford, he is a Chartered Science Teacher (CSciTeach) and a Chartered Physicist (CPhys), as well as a Senior Facilitator with STEM Learning.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Heads of Science/Physics
- Teachers of AQA GCSE Physics
- Teachers aiming to boost the higher achievers

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Develop an understanding of the level descriptors and how pupils should apply them
- Discuss sample answers at grade 7 – 9 to identify key characteristics, and the approach of the examiner
- Increase awareness of why top students underachieve
- Provide and discuss different ways of teaching a content-heavy course
- Develop an understanding of the potential hazards students face when studying GCSE Physics

BIOGRAPHIES

Dr Stephen Belding is an accomplished teacher and Head of Chemistry at Rugby School. He attended St John's College, Oxford University, where he earned a degree in Chemistry (MChem) and a DPhil in Computational Electrochemistry. With a teaching career that commenced in 2012, Stephen has successfully instructed across five distinct exam specifications at three highly regarded schools in the UK. In 2022, he concluded his MEd research focusing on inspection reports and strategies for school improvement.

Alessio Bernardelli has over 18 years of teaching experience and has worked as Head of KS3 Science and Head of Physics. He also worked as Field Development Officer for NGfL Cymru, as Science Subject Lead at TSL Education (TES) and as National Support Programme Partner in Wales with CfBT. Alessio won a number of national and international education awards for the innovative and creative way he integrates emerging technologies in STEM education. One of these awards is the Microsoft Worldwide Innovative Education Forum, 2007.

Alessio is an accredited Microsoft Peer Coaching Facilitator, one of few Partners In Learning Top Tiered Teachers worldwide, a TASC Framework Specialist, an Official iMindMap Leader and an Institute of Physics Coach member of their Professional Practice Group. He has recently completed an MSc in Teacher Education at the University of Oxford, he is a Chartered Science Teacher (CSciTeach) and a Chartered Physicist (CPhys), as well as a Senior Facilitator with STEM Learning.

Alessio worked as Examiner for a number of years with WJEC and Cambridge International Education. He is also a published author, with his GCSE Physics revision guide for Scholastic and his A-level exam practice book for Hodder Education.

Alessio is the founder of CollaboratED and a PGCE physics Tutor at Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Michael Brown was an examiner for 18 years and has worked in post 16 education for 23 years, initially as an A-level Biology Tutor before progressing to Head of Department and finally STEM and Quality Initiatives Manager. He has had a positive effect on student's aspirations and achievement; his Learner Voice results are always very positive and examination results have been consistently above benchmark for all KPI's with excellent value added. As a Head of Department he completed an 'Exceeding Expectations' management training course and is a strong and effective leader. His Science provision was chosen as part of OFSTED's Good practice survey: Improving Sciences in Colleges. Michael was then seconded to another campus to improve science results and turned around the department within 12 months. During this time his college also reached the finals of the National STEMNET Awards for three consecutive years.

Howard Dodd has worked for many years as a teacher, subject leader, university lecturer, A-level Physics Principal Examiner, ITT trainer, QTS assessor and as a consultant to schools and colleges on leadership, management, assessment and pedagogy. He has successfully presented in-service training courses for teachers for over 30 years.

Dr Caroline Evans is the Head of Chemistry at Wellington College which she joined in September 2015. Prior to this she taught Chemistry at Canford School, Dorset for three years after she had graduated from the University of Bath in 2012 with a PhD in organic chemistry. She has been examining for nearly 10 years and is currently an Examiner for AQA Chemistry Paper 2 and Assistant Principal Examiner for Pearson GCSE Chemistry.

Ellena Gilson is a former Head of Biology at a top grammar school with over 25 years of outstanding teaching experience. She has extensive experience as an A-Level Biology examiner and holds senior positions for two major examination boards. She is closely involved in the production of AS Biology assessment material for one of the boards and sets exam questions for A-Level papers. She also authors A-Level and GCSE resources for several publishers and runs her own tutoring business, improving the exam outcomes for A-Level Biology students.

Dee Martin is Head of Chemistry & STEM at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham, an Academy with a non-selective intake. She is an experienced AQA A-Level Chemistry examiner and currently delivers revision courses to many schools across the country guiding teachers in preparing for exams and helping to raise student grades.

Nicola Manning has 33 years' experience of teaching A-level Biology and has attained a Silver Pearson's National Teaching award to recognise her successes. She currently teaches 6 A-level Biology classes, with an average class size of 22. Her cohorts regularly attain above the national averages on all benchmarks, her advice is supported by real-life outcomes. She has attained ALPS grade 2 for 5 consecutive years and been mentioned in ALPS reports. She has completed a research project for the Ipswich Opportunity Fund on the positive impacts of Flipped Learning on developing students' independence and life-long learning skills and is committed to raising the attainment of all learners.

Prish Narindar is currently Deputy head of Faculty and Science lead at a school in Hampshire. With over 10 years' experience in KS3 and KS4 science curriculum delivery in mainstream education and private tuition, she has led the local Science GCSE collaboration development group that partners with 8 schools and colleges. Prish has also successfully led active learning, cognitive load association and assessment workshops whilst coaching PGCE and ITT students for local partnerships. She has also successfully piloted the able students programme in collaboration with local secondary schools, and has worked with Hampshire HIAS group to develop and strengthen science curriculum delivery.

Dr Harjit K Singh is an experienced teacher and senior examiner for A-Level Biology. She has taught and examined A-Level Biology for over 25 years, IB Biology for 8 years as well as BTEC Applied Science. She is a published author of the Key Skills and Knowledge Booster Biology and co-author of Key Skills and Knowledge Booster BTEC Science Applied and Vocational courses. She has presented many biology courses for teachers, student revision conferences and online web conferences. She is also involved in presenting international IB student revision courses.

GCSE and A-Level In-School Student Revision Sessions

We know that every school is unique, and we can work with you to create a tailored student revision session that is bespoke to your needs.

We can offer a full range of subject specific, exam board specific GCSE and A-Level student revision sessions, all of which can be tailored and customised by your school's requirements.

Benefits of bringing Keynote Educational into Your School

- Over 20 years of experience **providing student revision sessions**, regularly running multiple sessions throughout the year at individual schools
- **Dedicated team of specialist examiner experts**; these individuals are not only experts in their particular fields but also familiar with delivering to student groups, and understand the need to make the days enriching, stimulating, informative and worthwhile
- **Invaluable, reliable and enriching** source of extra boost for students, and teachers
- Receive **key messages and feedback** from the 2023 June examinations
- Students will take away **first hand guidance** and crucial insight along with great strategies for structuring their answers and techniques to **build strong answers for success in the 2024 examinations**

You may also be interested in bringing into your school our new student sessions that specifically focus on **successful study habits, good retrieval, recall and revision techniques**, how successful students learn differently and so on. These are generic sessions, and can be tailored for specific year groups, for half days or full days, tailored once again to suit.

Find out more:



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