

Is this the right subject for you?

Do you enjoy practical laboratory work?

Are you someone who can cope fairly easily with Maths and would like to use number work in problem solving?

Are you intrigued by the science that you have studied so far, and prepared to work hard to find out more?

Why study this subject?

Why is copper sulfate blue? Why does ice float on water? If you want to be able to explain things like this, and to learn more about the fascinating and varied world of the elements, then Chemistry is the course for you.

Chemistry is an essential qualification for a large number of careers as well as being an excellent subject to study alongside any other A Level. A large number of our students move on into areas such as Applied Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biochemistry, Biotechnology and Environmental Science. If you want any science-based career, then Chemistry keeps your options open. Chemistry AS in itself is certain to be a very useful qualification. Almost all of our students tell us that they really do enjoy the Chemistry course at BHASVIC and for many of them it becomes a highly successful and rewarding A Level that helps them in their further studies.

What is the course content?

Chemistry is the science of materials. It is about gases, liquids and solids; how they interact and how they may be made. Think about plastics, pesticides and drugs; fireworks, fuels and explosives. Chemistry is, literally, everywhere.

In AS Chemistry you will cover topics such as atomic structure, bonding and the Periodic Table. You will also learn about rates of reaction, organic chemistry, energetics and environmental issues.

In the second year the topics are covered in greater depth with further emphasis on analytical techniques and the application of chemical understanding in the world around us.

The topics studied are widely inter-linked and the developing patterns are a distinguishing feature of this subject. Practical work is used throughout the course both to illustrate concepts and to enable the development of technical and investigative skills.

How will your work be assessed?

AS Level (Year 1) Chemistry (OCR)

Two written exams (80% of AS level)

Assessment of Practical Skills (20% of AS level)

A Level (Year 2) Chemistry (OCR)

Two written exams (80% of A2 level)

Assessment of Practical Skills (20% of A2 level)

What are the entry requirements?

The general entry requirements for studying at Advanced level apply, and must include a minimum of two grade C's in Science (higher tier), or C in Chemistry *plus* a minimum of grade C in Maths GCSE. However, two grade B's in Science is a much more realistic basis for success in Chemistry at Advanced level.

Other information

Over 160 students enrol to study Chemistry in their first year at BHASVIC and there is a good gender mix. There is always someone to ask when you need help, whether a friend from your own year group or a member of the Chemistry staff.

We have a well-organised system of support where you can get help on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. All lesson resources are accessible from home via our virtual learning environment.

All students carry out practical work every week and all the lessons take place in Chemistry Laboratories.

We have a range of equipment and an interactive whiteboard for both theory and practical work. The Open Learning Centre gives you access to a wide selection of

Chemistry

AS and A Level

Chemistry books, videos, CD-ROMS and Science publications. Each year our students visit the University of Sussex for lectures and demonstrations. Some get further afield for a few days' experience of Chemistry and related courses at other Universities. We have well developed links with the Royal Society of Chemistry and many of our students are members of their post-16 network .