

Watford Girls Grammar School



Biology Department.

The Biology Department at Watford Girls Grammar School consists of eight specialist Biology teachers, some with a wide range of responsibilities throughout the school. There is also a full time Biology technician.

Teaching takes place in six well equipped Biology laboratories all of which have a full range of standard equipment, video/DVD, data projectors, OHP facilities and whiteboards. They are also all networked with full internet access and with interactive whiteboards in all of the laboratories. A large greenhouse is used for propagation of plant material and as an additional teaching resource. The department is fortunate in having a wide range of specialist equipment available for use, and a large library of other resources including videos, DVDs, books, journals and CD-ROMS.

Year 7 Taught general science six periods per week

Year 8 Taught general science five periods per week

Year 9 Taught by a specialist Science teacher 2 periods per week per subject. The GCSE course is begun in Year 9.

Year 10 & 11 Year 9 pupils who achieve grade 7 in teacher assessment at the end of Year 9 go on to study three separate sciences. Others study core and additional science. Class sizes range from 20-26 with 9 periods per week, three each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics taught by specialist teachers.

Upper & Lower sixth We have five sets of 15-20 pupils in each year group (making Biology one of the largest A-level departments in the school). All pupils are issued with a general textbook (Roland). Each group is taught for 9 periods a week by two teachers working in parallel. We offer WJEC AS & A2 Biology and Cambridge Pre-U Biology.

Extra-curricular activities are of great importance within Biology and include an active sixth form Biology Club, the running of CREST awards and a range of visiting speakers and activities during national Science Week.

GCSE results are excellent with 100% of candidates achieving a grade A*-C last year and 79% A*/A. Similarly, **Biology A-level results** for 2009 gave 94% A-C. The assessed practical coursework at all stages reflects this high standard.

For more details on the department or courses on offer visit the Biology website at www.watfordgrammarschoolforgirls.org.uk

Biology Staff

Dr John Mynett (resigning)	FT	Head of Biology
Miss Sheila Conway	FT	Head of Careers/Assistant Head of Sixth Form
Miss Sandra Souley	FT	Head of Sixth Form
Miss Geraldine Ferguson	FT	Biology teacher
Dr Sarah Grinham	PT	Biology teacher and School G + T Co-ordinator
Mrs Julie Richards	FT	Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Sue Durward-Akhurst	FT	HOD Biology Designate
Ms Clare Sparke	PT	Biology teacher
Mr Nick McKeown	FT	Biology technician

The staff within the Biology Department work very closely as a team – producing shared resources and teaching notes. We aim to support one another and encourage good teaching practice, but also expect initiative and the ability to think independently. As a very large department with an excellent standard of teaching, commitment to the subject, determination, and an enthusiastic approach to teaching are essential.

June 2010