



Ripon Grammar School

Dear Students,

Welcome to A Level Chemistry!

We look forward to welcoming you in September, to help with the transition from Y11 into sixth form and ensure that you are well prepared for the A level Chemistry course.

What can you expect?

Chemistry is a challenging, practical subject and will require an excellent attitude to learning from the get-go! It is quite a jump up from GCSE and is fast-paced, and so getting into good habits with independent study is important so you can consolidate and apply ideas taught in your lessons. However, it is an incredibly rewarding subject as a result.

At RGS, we follow the [AQA](#) A Level Chemistry specification. Regardless of the exam board you studied at GCSE, what you have already learned is crucial for your success at A Level and provides the foundation to making a strong start in September. It is assumed that fundamental concepts such as constructing formula, balancing equations, knowing general types of reactions and mole calculations are well understood and can be applied from the first lesson. Therefore, the [transition work](#) is a helpful tool to practise these ideas again after you've had a well-earned break and are preparing to start the course

Resources / Support

- **Topic Booklets** – you will receive booklets for each topic which will be required for lessons – you must make sure to bring them with you.
- **SharePoint** – we have a plethora of learning resources on SharePoint, where digital versions of the topic booklets, PowerPoints and revision materials are available to support independent study.
- **Core Practical booklet** – there is a practical component of the course which will be assessed alongside your examinations. More information can be found on the AQA website [here](#). You will be given a booklet specifically containing the activities that assess this, and so it is important they are brought with you to the relevant lessons.
- **Progress booklet** – your progress booklet contains useful information about the course, assessment and opportunities to record and reflect on your progress. Habitually reflecting on any feedback you receive should be logged in here – it is a useful tool to help you improve.

Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555

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- **Home learning booklet** – each term you will receive a booklet containing all home learning activities for both teachers in that term. These are to be completed weekly – please read the instructions on the front of these booklets on how to make the most from these activities.
- **Textbooks** – you will loan a textbook in both Y12 and Y13, so there is no need to buy one.
- **Drop-in sessions** – please look out for any drop-in sessions that the department run on a lunchtime. Please utilise these if you need some help!

Equipment

- Pen, pencil, ruler, purple pen (for self-assessment), rubber, sharpener, highlighter.
- A scientific calculator
- A ring binder or folder to organise topic booklets

Wider reading / enrichment

- Reading around the subject can contextualise your learning and develop an appreciation of chemistry in the wider world. Please see the induction lesson in September or speak to your teacher about these recommended books / podcasts.
- We plan to run a trip to York University for all Y12 students in the Summer, to synthesise paracetamol. We ask for a voluntary contribution of around £15 nearer the time.
- Every summer we run the Chemistry Cambridge Challenge students. More information can be found here, alongside resources to prepare for it (such as past papers).

The team and I look forward to getting to know you and working with you over the next two years. If you have any queries or questions about the course please send me an email.

Kind regards,
Mr. Shortman
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