



## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

Northwood College for Girls is a member of the Girls' Day School Trust (GDST). The GDST is the leading network of independent girls' schools in the UK and has a history of pioneering innovation in the education of girls. The GDST runs a network of 23 schools and 2 academies throughout the UK. Northwood College GDST is aiming to become the leading school in North West London and it is vital that the applicants are forward looking and eager to embrace and encourage innovation to drive success.

### **The Science Department:**

There are ten science teachers, some of whom are part-time. Within each of Physics, Chemistry and Biology there are specialists teaching across the age range from 11 to 18 years. The Science Department is very close-knit and enjoys a particularly good working atmosphere. Regular formal and informal meetings allow all staff to express their ideas, be part of an integrated approach and receive advice and support from other members of the department.

The Head of Physics is supported by two teachers of Physics. The Head of Chemistry is supported by three teachers of Chemistry. The Head of Biology is supported by three teachers of Biology.

There are five science technicians and six preparation rooms.

### **Accommodation and facilities:**

There are currently ten fully equipped science laboratories.

All laboratories have an interactive whiteboard, computer linked data projector and are connected to the computer network. A wide range of ICT resources such as Kerboodle, Boardworks, Exampro, and Data Harvest is available and used extensively.

There is a strong emphasis on investigative work. From Year 7 upwards, the schemes of work incorporate a wide variety of practical activities. The department is very well equipped.

## **Teaching:**

Northwood College has three/four form entry. In Year 7 girls are taught in mixed ability forms of approximately 20 pupils. Science is taught thematically with one teacher and 6 one hour periods of Science per fortnight.

In Years 8 the groups are still taught by a single member of staff with 6 one hour lessons per fortnight but with a greater division into traditional disciplines.

In year 9, girls are taught in four divisions (set by ability) of approximately 14 - 20 pupils. Students start their International GCSE (EDEXCEL) courses with 2 hours per fortnight per science taught by specialist teachers.

Year 10 & 11 students continue to study the International GCSE syllabus with 4 hours per fortnight per science, which is offered as Separate Sciences and Science Double Award.

The Sciences are very popular in the Sixth Form, with roughly half of the girls studying at least one science at Advanced Level. A large number of Sixth Form girls go on to study science degrees at a wide variety of universities including Oxford and Cambridge. Physics currently offers the AQA Physics course as a linear 2 year course.

The Science Department offers a range of extra-curricular opportunities for girls to develop initiative and enthusiasm, including a "Health Issues" programme for Sixth Form Biology students, the Biology, Chemistry and Physics Olympiads, Biology Challenge, Physics Challenge, Lower School Science Club and CREST awards which are all very popular in the school. Lectures and visits also form part of the girls' experience of science. The Senior Science department offers lunchtime Science clubs for the junior school such as Engineering and Science clubs.