

International Baccalaureate Chemistry

@ Durham Sixth Form Centre

"Every experiment proves something. If it doesn't prove what you wanted it to prove, it proves something else."

- Anon

'Chemistry is an experimental science that combines academic study with the acquisition of practical and investigative skills. It is called the central science, as chemical properties underpin both the physical environment in which we live and all biological systems'

(taken from the IB subject Guide for Chemistry)

The IB Chemistry course is aimed at developing the natural curiosity of students to help them to acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. Through a well balanced combination of theory and practical investigation IB learners should acquire in-depth knowledge and develop a better understanding of chemistry concepts that have local and global significance.

Course:

Standard Level (150 hours)

Higher Level (240 hours)

Assessment:

All exams are at the end of the second year.

Paper 1 – multiple-choice (20%)

Paper 2 – mixed short and long answer (35%)

Paper 3 – optional unit based (20%)

Group 4 project (25%):

The Group 4 project is an interdisciplinary project (within the sciences) that allows students to develop an appreciation of the essential hands-on nature of scientific work.

Course content:

In studying Chemistry as part of your IB diploma you will be studying a programme that covers topics such as:

- Atomic Structure
- Bonding
- Kinetics
- Acids and Bases
- Organic Chemistry
- Environmental Chemistry
- Medicines and Drugs

Internationalism:

Students studying the IB Chemistry course will grow to appreciate chemistry as a truly international endeavour that is used to tackle major scientific problems, from climate change to AIDS, as well as its contribution to global developments such as the Human Genome Project. There is the possibility of collaboration with international organisations as well with international schools such as the OSZ Lise Meitner School of Science, Berlin.

Science is a great game. It is inspiring and refreshing. The playing field is the universe itself.

- Isidor Isaac Rabi

