

St Luke's Science & Sports College
Parent Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday 28th April 2010
Meet the Science Department

Present: Laura Jewell; Clare Hepworth-Wain; Martyn Esau (Deputy Principal); Paul Scarbrough; Emma Mourant; C Knowles; J Rye; M & S Waite; P & N Jeffery; N Hare; S Fitzgerald; D Willingham;

Apologies: S Inskip; K Carver; M Ebbatson; C Mitchell; D Walsh;

Paul Scarbrough introduced himself as the Head of the Science Department. He explained that the science curriculum was constantly changing and developing which means the staff and students don't have any time to stagnate.

The role of the teachers within the department is:

To stimulate the students curiosity, interest and enjoyment and care in the environment.

To develop abilities and skills that are relevant to the study of science and useful in everyday life.

Paul went on to list the topics the KS3 students study.

Year 7

- Who am I? Looks at DNA
- Forensics Looks at atoms and molecules
- School dinners Looking at nutrition
- Bight sparks Looks at electricity
- Acid Attacks Covers chemistry
- Sports Day Looks at forces – push/pull/gravity etc

Year 8

- Healthy lifestyle Looks at diet, exercise, drug taking etc
- Drama show Covers sound and light
- Energy
- Gold rush Chemistry
- Earth & Space
- Sunflower project Is all about the environment and what plants need to grow

Year 9

- Egypt
- Saving the planet
- Life under the microscope

Schemes of work are still being written for the Year 9 topics so Paul was unable to give us any details of the breakdown of topics although he promises it will be just as fun and exciting as the others!!

BTEC Science

Double applied science is being phased out and will be replaced with BTEC science. Triple science will still remain on the options. For two consecutive years we have had the best results in the country for the double applied so Paul felt it very important to replace it with a course that would be the most suited for the students. St Luke's students don't seem to perform as well in exams but prefer to complete coursework and get feedback on how they can improve their grades throughout the year.

The BTEC's are a nationally recognised qualification equivalent to 2 or 4 GCSE's at Grade C and above.

We then held a question and answer session for parents to put forward any questions.

Q. What the advantages are of these type of courses (such as the BTEC)?

A. Paul explained that as well as the points he had already highlighted it was a chance for students to work at a higher level and to constantly know what targets they were aiming for.

Q. Do college/university/employers recognise BTEC's as a proper qualification?

A. Martyn Esau and Paul explained that BTEC's are well established and the reputation has been hardened as the courses have been rewritten and improved over the years. College, Universities and employers also recognise that BTEC's teach students the skills of research and continual assessment.

Q. How can students use the BTEC qualification they gain at St Luke's when they go on to college?

A. They can go on to study a National Diploma which is equivalent to A level's, however, if students wish to do an A Level in science at college, it is recommended that they pick GCSE triple science at St Luke's

Q. What are the new Diploma's I've heard about?

A. Diplomas are a relatively new qualification which takes up most of a students timetable. 1 Diploma is equal to 7 ½ GCSE's. There is one exam but the rest of the study is tested though controlled assessments and tasks.

You will hear more about the different qualifications we offer when you're child is in Year 9 and has to pick options.

Q. Where can I find out more about the science department?

A. The school website gives an explanation of topics.

Go to Parents>Subjects>Science.

There are resources, topics and power points on the VLE. All students should now be able to log on and understand how to use it.

The evening ended with all parents agreeing how interesting it was to have an insight at what the science department has to offer and to know how different it is to when they studied at school.