Central Foundation Girls' School

Level 3 BTEC Applied Science

How long is the course?
National Extended Certificate is a 2 year course - equivalent to 1 A Level

Who is the course for?
BTEC Applied Science focuses on a wide range of vocational science skills through carrying out practical work to learn key theoretical concepts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The vocational aspect of the course enables students to develop links between theoretical science and science within the workplace.

How will I be assessed?
Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I – Written Exam set externally
Unit 2: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques – Assignment set and marked internally
Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills – Task set and marked externally
Optional module – Assignment set and marked internally
As the qualification centres on practical skills, practical work is an integral part of studying BTEC Applied Science and most lessons will include a practical element. This will be assessed throughout the course in timed assessments. The mandatory content amounts to 67% of the course whilst the external assessment amounts to 42%. There are examinations for the new BTEC 2016 courses.

What could I do after the course?
This qualification leads to a wide range of degrees available after BTEC level 3 for example, Biomedical Science, Sports Therapy and Engineering. In addition to this other options including Nursing, being a Science Technician and Science Journalism which can be achieved through apprenticeships.

What else do I need to know?
The BTEC applied science path best suited to a student with a learning style involving long term projects and coursework. The course requires good time management skills. Resent statistics show that students with a combination of BTEC and A-level are equally as likely to gain acceptance to university as A-Level only students and many of the top universities accept BTEC only student onto their courses.

What will I be studying?
Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I
Students study science concepts, including: animal and plant cells; tissues; atomic structure and bonding; chemical and physical properties of substances related to their uses; waves and their application in communications.

Unit 2: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques
Students are introduced to standard advanced level laboratory equipment and techniques, including titration, colorimetery, chromatography, and calibration procedures as well as laboratory safety and calculating the concentration of solutions.

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Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills
As well as drawing on knowledge and techniques from Units 1 and 2, students develop these skills in the context of additional taught content areas, including enzymes, diffusion and energy, all of which are underpinned by important scientific concepts.

Unit 4: Internally Assessed Optional Module
The content of this optional module is yet to be decided and could range from The Human Body, Organic Chemistry or even Space and Astronomy.

Exam Board: Edexcel
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