What do you particularly enjoy about studying this subject?

Almost every topic we cover in chemistry is extremely interesting to me but one I particularly enjoyed studying was Organic Synthesis. It is fascinating to me to see how different organic molecules are synthesised using different mechanisms, and how it shows you what actually occurs on the molecular scale right in front of you. Furthermore, I enjoy the practicals we do in Chemistry as they are always fun and relevant to the topic we are covering.

How much work is involved? (hours in lessons / outside of lessons)

Typically a lesson is 2 hours long; at the moment we have 2 lessons a week in which we learn content through the booklets provided by the Chemistry department. This is a very useful resource for making notes and revising from and we often do exam question practice in these booklets too. For revision, we are provided with past paper exam question packs for every single topic we cover, which is such a convenient way to revise outside of lesson. It’s very important to complete each one to consolidate your knowledge, and it makes revision extremely accessible.

If you studied the subject at GCSE how different is studying it at A Level/BTEC Level 3?

I studied Chemistry at GCSE and found it really interesting, but the knowledge you learn at GCSE is not nearly as applicable to the real world as the chemistry you learn at A Level. Chemistry at A Level does require considerably more work than at GCSE, but it is so much more rewarding and intriguing, and the course provides you with a much greater breadth of chemistry knowledge than at GCSE.
How are you assessed and how regularly?

After completing a couple of topics, you will usually do a small checkpoint test on those topics just to see how you are coping. After each module (which is just a collection of related topics) we will usually do a test on that module. These tests are important to revise for as they continuously keep you on top of the content you are covering and it helps you to remember what you have recently been taught.

What support have you received and is support available if you don’t understand something?

On Mondays we have a tutorial group called Chemistry Clinic which is open to students and you can come and ask literally any questions you have about what you are learning and you will receive help. You can get help on homeworks, difficult concepts, hard exam questions; anything you need help with the teachers will do their best to guide you through. There are also weekly revision sessions of previous topics, which are really useful.

Have you received careers support and what are your future plans?

I have spoken to the Careers Advisor at Carmel and with their advice I decided to pursue a career in Chemical Engineering. After college I plan to either go to Manchester University and do a Chemical Engineering course with a year of industrial placement, or I may still get a degree apprenticeship in Chemical Engineering.

Visit our website for more information about our A Level Chemistry course