

Chemistry Edexcel IGCSE Classes

I run live, interactive, online small group courses for IGCSE Chemistry. These are aimed at students who are keen to engage with an academically challenging course, which will engage them and enable them to aim at the top grades. My courses are fully comprehensive, providing all resources needed (apart from a text book) including follow up work and regular assessment. I believe my Chemistry classes are unparalleled in terms of their organisation, teaching methods and resources. I have put considerable time and expertise into their development and take immense pride in helping each and every student achieve their full potential.

"Kate is without doubt the best Science teacher / tutor I have come across... Kate combines subject mastery with teaching brilliance. She is a rare find." (IGCSE group class parent)

Why choose me?



I am a former Head of Chemistry with nearly fifteen years of teaching experience, two of which have been as an Independent Online Chemistry Educator working with many home educated students. I taught the IGCSE Chemistry course for six years at one of the UK's top independent schools, so know the specification and exam style inside out. As an Edexcel examiner I have access to all the past exam papers, which enables me to put together fantastic sets of resources. I believe in the importance of life-long learning and am a bit of a collector of degrees with five from the University of Cambridge. The highlights include a PhD in Chemistry, a PGCE and Masters in Education. My educational expertise means that I am a very reflective teacher who excels in simplifying concepts and building understanding. I am adept at stretching students outside the specification, answering their questions and preparing them in a way that will set them up for further study in scientific disciplines should they choose this route. As well as being able to inspire the high fliers, it is worth mentioning that for many of my teaching years I took the lower IGCSE sets because I am patient and excel in nurturing students to achieve their best. I believe in the importance of strong relationships with home, as learning is a team effort. As a parent myself, I see each child as an individual and will do my best to help your child thrive.

One-year vs Two-year course

I would generally recommend the two-year course as the better option for many students. In comparison to the one-year course, this includes an extra term of teaching, which allows a gentler pace initially and gives them time to consolidate their understanding and build exam technique. The one-year course is typically more suited to older learners who may have done some prior Chemistry learning, or whom are very committed to covering the course in a year and are self-motivated. I have had very committed Year 10 equivalent students follow the one-year course very successfully, but would not generally recommend it below this age.

Class details

- The classes are academically rigorous and aim to foster an enthusiasm in Chemistry, whilst ensuring students are thoroughly prepared to target the top grades in the subject. They are aimed at students who are targeting a Grade 7 or above. They do require commitment to the subject in order to cover what is a conceptually challenging course in the allocated teaching time.
- Classes are very interactive as Chemistry is a subject where students must build their own understanding. Students are given questions to answer individually during each lesson and are encouraged to discuss their answers. We also do regular online Kahoot quizzes, which have proven to be very popular. They enable students to practise applying their understanding in a gently competitive environment whilst receiving formative feedback.
- All classes are one hour in length and take place in term time beginning in September and targeting Summer exam sittings either over 1 or two years.
- Classes take place via Zoom using an online whiteboard.
- Copies of the notes made on the whiteboard are available after each session.
- The sessions are videoed, enabling replay at a later date or catch up if the session is missed.
- Follow up work is provided for each class, which typically takes the form of worksheets or sets of exam questions. This should normally take an average of an hour per lesson. But independent work will also be required on top of this to consolidate concepts. Please note weekly follow up work is self-marked using mark schemes provided. Problems can be addressed via email or at the drop-in Help Sessions. It is the responsibility of parents / carers to ensure this work is completed as it is an essential part of the course to build the necessary understanding and so students can practise applying the skills they have learnt in class.
- All resources are provided electronically via Google Classroom, organised by topic, to enable easy review at a later date.
- A half termly formal assessment is set and marked by me with comprehensive individual feedback, highlighting areas for improvement.
- The courses cover the entire specification with an end of year exam (two-year course only) and two marked mock papers.
- There are weekly drop in Help Sessions, enabling students to access individual help when needed.
- Classes cost £15 per session, payable half termly in advance. Whilst there are no discounts for missed classes, all resources are available including the class recordings to enable catch up.
- Classes require a minimum of 4 students to run. I aim to have six students per class to enable students to all benefit from individual attention. There will be a maximum of eight per class at the start of the academic year, to allow for anyone who has a change of heart!

How I structure the course

I use my educational expertise to tweak the specification order. In Chemistry it is a balance between getting the fundamentals in place and trying to save some of the tougher topics for later when they have built self-confidence and resilience. This can make a significant difference to their ability to cope with more conceptually demanding aspects of the course and their enthusiasm for the subject. Where possible I save the Paper 2 topics to teach after the Paper 1 content. This is partly because they tend to be more challenging, but also because it enables Paper 1 exam practice to begin at an earlier date, which pays dividends in terms of their exam preparation.

Outline of teaching order

	Two-year IGCSE	One-year IGCSE
Autumn 2021 Half Term 1	Principles of Chemistry: fundamentals, states of matter, atomic structure.	Principles of Chemistry: fundamentals, states of matter, atomic structure, periodic table, structure and bonding
Autumn 2021 Half Term 2	Principles of Chemistry: periodic table, structure and bonding.	Principles of Chemistry: calculations Inorganic Chemistry: Groups 1 and 7, atmospheric, acids, bases and salts, reactivity series
Spring 2022 Half Term 1	Inorganic Chemistry: Groups 1 and 7	Inorganic Chemistry: chemical tests Physical Chemistry: energetics, rates of reaction Organic Chemistry: introduction, crude oil, alkanes, alkenes
Spring 2022 Half Term 2	Inorganic Chemistry: atmospheric, acids, bases and salts	Paper 2 content
Summer 2022 Half Term 1	Inorganic Chemistry: reactivity series, chemical tests Physical Chemistry: energetics	Exam preparation
Summer 2022 Half Term 2	Physical Chemistry: rates of reaction Organic Chemistry: Introduction, crude oil, alkanes	
Autumn 2022 Half Term 1	Organic Chemistry: Alkenes Principles of Chemistry: Mole calculations	
Autumn 2022 Half Term 2	Paper 2: Part 1	
Spring 2023 Half Term 1	Paper 2: Part 2	
Spring 2023 Half Term 2	Consolidation and exam preparation	
Summer 2023 Half Term 1		