

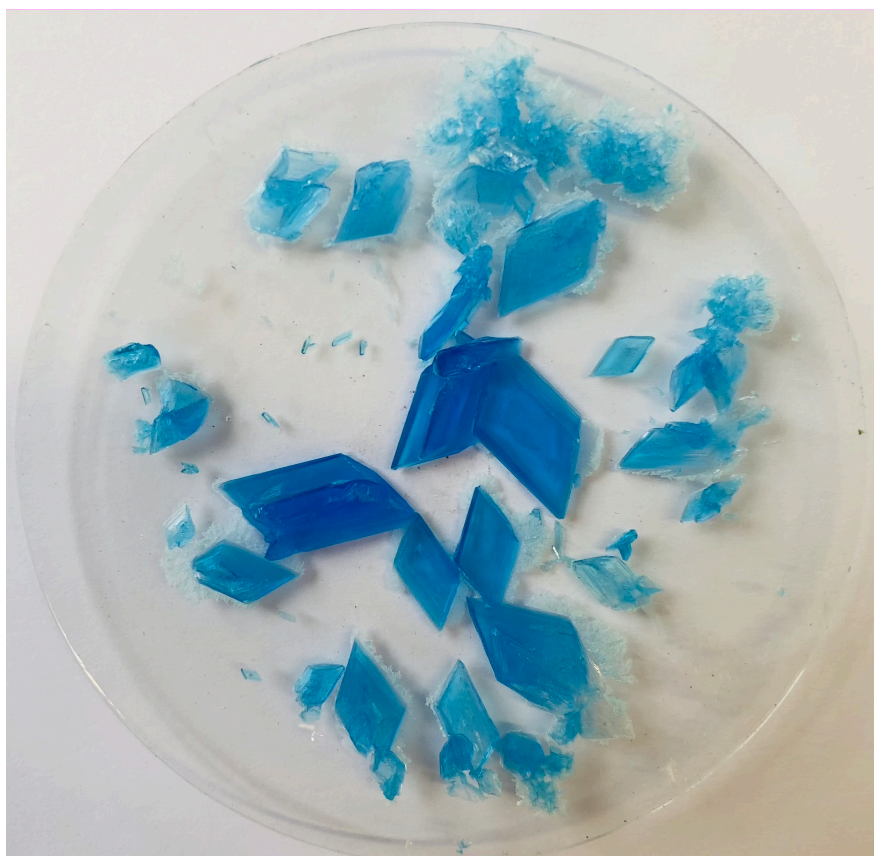
CanDoChem

Chemistry Courses

Starting September '23

Expert teaching of Chemistry at KS3 and IGCSE
Live classes & video courses for home educated students

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Introduction to CanDoChem

My vision at CanDoChem is to enable all students to access a top quality Chemistry education, that will engage and enthuse them and help them to realise their potential. Chemistry is a conceptually challenging subject, where specialist teaching makes all the difference in terms of both helping students to flourish and really understand the subject. I am equally passionate about both teaching and Chemistry, and the progress of every student genuinely matters to me. My courses are taught and resourced in such a way to ensure that students with SEND are set up for success and the excellent teaching practices benefit all learners. I liaise closely with families to help ensure the best outcomes for all my students.

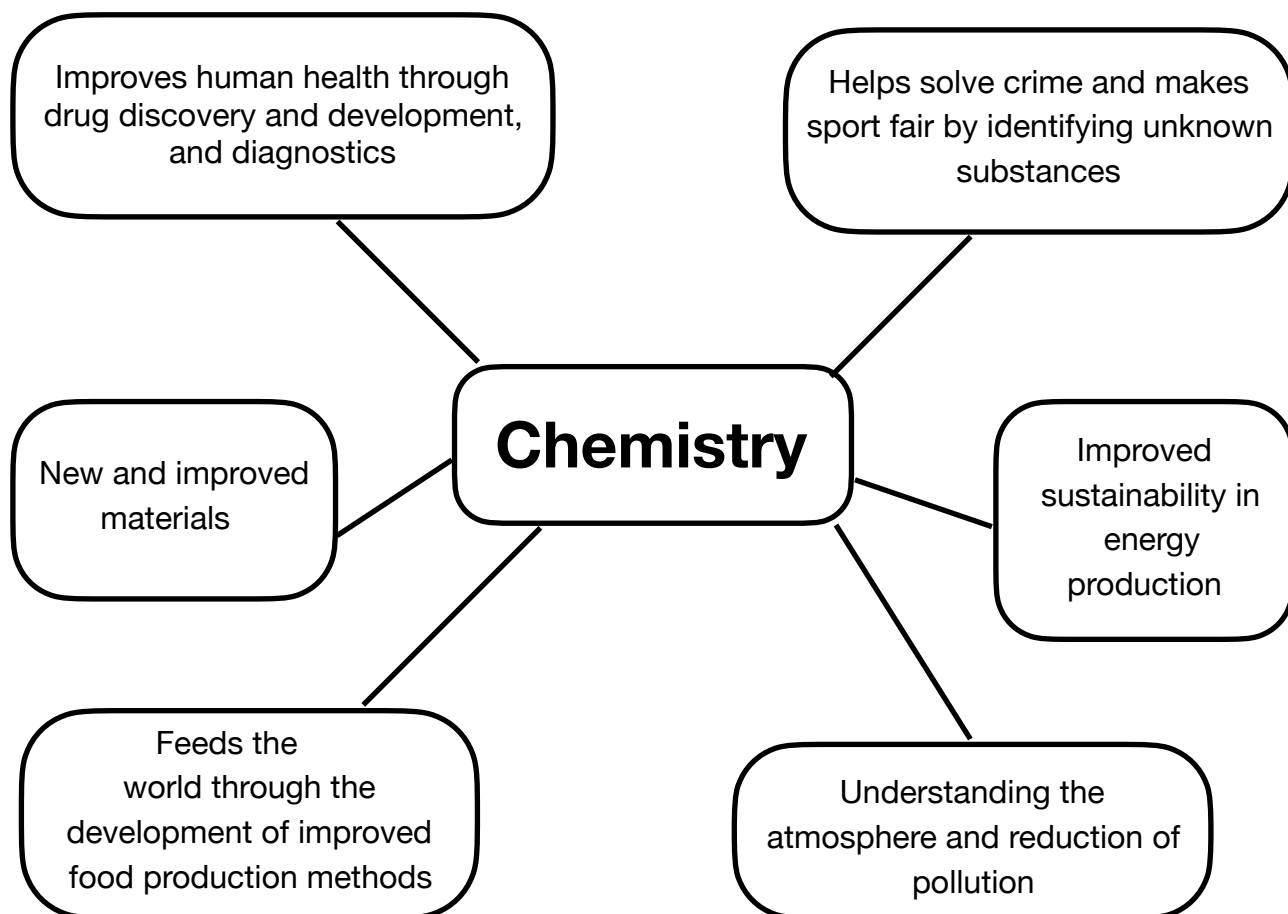
Much of the assessment in both IGCSE and A Level Chemistry involves application of knowledge rather than rote learning. This requires building of skills and regular reinforcement of knowledge, through carefully thought out schemes of learning and well honed explanations with tips and tricks to help with more complex ideas. My courses are aimed at students who are keen to engage with conceptually challenging content, which is taught in an engaging and interactive way.

At CanDoChem I offer a range of courses to suit different learning styles and budgets. These include options with weekly live classes or courses with pre-recorded lessons and the option of add-on masterclasses. I provide entire courses at KS3 and IGCSE level, where all resources except a text book are provided. Coming soon there will be the option to dip into top up courses as an alternative, to help with those harder to teach IGCSE aspects, including core practicals and revision. At present, I offer individual tuition at A Level for home educated students, which includes learning resources and topic tests. I am working towards the development of an A Level course - do let me know if this interests you.

I set up CanDoChem when I left the classroom in 2019. My first IGCSE group classes for home educated students began in September 2020. In September 2021 I added KS3 group classes and pre-recorded courses at both KS3 and IGCSE. My courses are aimed at students who are keen to aim high. In 2021 my 1-year course students achieved 100% Grade 9. In 2022 my 2-year course students achieved 100% Grade 9 and including the 1-year course, all students achieved 86% Grade 7 - 9. It is worth mentioning, that I certainly do not expect all my students to achieve a Grade 9, but I do work hard to stretch all my students with the aim of ensuring everyone achieves the best possible outcome for them.

Why does Chemistry matter?

Chemistry is at the centre of everything and helps us to understand the world around us. Some examples of the importance of Chemistry are shown below.



Why study Chemistry?

For Science enthusiasts, Chemistry is a fascinating subject. It is logical and all about explaining the “why...” questions behind everyday life. Chemistry is more about understanding and application of skills than rote learning (although as in any subject there is an element of this, particularly in learning the appropriate vocabulary to use in answers.) But beyond the joy of the subject itself, through the study of Chemistry, students will build a range of transferable skills, including problem solving, logical thinking, reasoning, communication skills and numerical confidence. It equips students with skills to understand scientific issues that are in the news and are important for members of society to make informed decisions about, such as climate change, tackling pollution, energy sources and sustainable development.

Chemistry is a subject that essentially covers the same topics from KS3 to A Level, but in increasing levels of depth and with more application of mathematical skills. For this reason, it is crucial to build good foundations, which enable later concepts to be built upon earlier knowledge. For further detail about what is covered in the different courses please see the course pages.

Chemistry is often described as the central science. It connects the biological sciences with the physical sciences and the more applied disciplines, such as medicine and engineering. As such, anyone with aspirations to study any of the sciences at A Level or beyond is well advised to study Chemistry to at least IGCSE level in terms of keeping doors open. Many biological courses at university level require A Level Chemistry. It always appears at the top end of lists of ‘facilitating subjects’: those subjects that are deemed as being most valuable for entry to higher education.

About me



I am a former Head of Chemistry with over fifteen years of teaching experience from KS3 to A Level. I spent the first twelve years of my teaching career in UK schools and since 2019 have been an independent online Chemistry educator, working extensively with home educated students, as well as supporting students with their in school studies. I teach all of the courses offered by CanDoChem and have written / produced the accompanying resources.

Whilst in the classroom, I taught the Edexcel IGCSE Chemistry course for six years, at one of the UK's top independent schools, so I know the specification and exam style inside out. As an extremely experienced A Level Chemistry teacher, I ensure that excellent foundations are set in place for those who wish to go on to study Chemistry at a higher level. This is really important in terms of helping to smooth, what can otherwise be a challenging transition from IGCSE to A Level Chemistry. I am also an examiner, so have a focus on teaching exam technique, which I embed in the IGCSE course from the start. As a former Head of Chemistry, I am very experienced at taking a specification and putting it into a sensible teaching order and producing high quality resources to accompany it.

I have a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Cambridge, so am (mostly) able to answer the challenging questions that my students like to throw at me! I also have a PGCE and a Masters in Education, from Cambridge. My educational expertise means that I am a very reflective teacher, who excels in simplifying concepts and building understanding in a step wise manner, which helps all students. My years in the classroom have given me a lot of experience in supporting students with SEND. 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 (I)GCSE sets because I am patient and good at nurturing students. I believe in the importance of strong relationships with home and regular contact, 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.

KS3 Chemistry Courses

KS3 course information

It is not essential to study KS3 Chemistry in order to study IGCSE, but it really helps to put good foundations in place that will make the transition to IGCSE learning less challenging. The KS3 course that I teach is very much a pre-IGCSE course, which does aim to stretch and challenge and push beyond the confines of a traditional KS3 course, where appropriate. Students should also be studying KS3 Maths alongside KS3 Chemistry, as there is a significant mathematical component to the subject (20% of the marks at IGCSE), so it is important that we include practice of appropriate mathematical skills within the KS3 course, to build the necessary skills. I have Year 6 equivalent students taking KS3 Chemistry through to those in Year 9. For younger students it is worth bearing in mind where this course will lead to in terms of progression to IGCSE learning, as I would not generally recommend starting this before Year 9 equivalent level, although there are exceptions to this.

KS3 Chemistry courses in schools are often heavily practically based. In designing this course, I have thought carefully about which aspects of typical KS3 courses are most important to teach in terms of smooth progression to IGCSE Chemistry, but also which topics lend themselves to online teaching, without being able to have a practical focus to classes. Without the limitations of a school curriculum or working to an exam, there has been the freedom to create an innovative course that also embeds the key skills needed for later success at IGCSE. It is a course where the development of skills is as important as the coverage of content. To support this, there are no topic tests, so we really can focus on the joy of learning (before things get rather more serious at IGCSE). I have also sought to ensure that we cover environmental issues, which the IGCSE course is, in my opinion, a bit light on, in comparison to other GCSE specifications. Understanding some of the big issues that students are going to need to contribute to over the coming years, should be a key feature of a Science education. These include, climate change, carbon footprint and life cycle assessment, pollution and acid rain, waste water treatment and water purification.

The KS3 course aims to build engagement and enthusiasm for Chemistry as well as academically rigorous foundations to help with the transition to IGCSE studies. I regularly include live demonstrations in my lessons to help give that sense of wonder that hooks students into a love of Science. I also include short videos to illustrate more fiery practicals that I can't do from my home!

Optional homework tasks are set each week. Where possible, these have a practical focus, but also seek to build skills in other areas. I take an over-arching view of the course and aim to build different key skills within it, which reach beyond the Chemistry

curriculum alone. These include mathematical skills, investigative skills, data analysis, research skills, scientific writing and peer assessment.

Topics covered at KS3 include: introduction to Chemistry (building investigative skills); states of matter; elements, compounds and mixtures; acids and bases; metals; everyday Chemistry; earth science.

A sample lesson can be trialled as a free preview on my KS3 course site to give you an idea of my teaching style: <https://courses.candochem.com/courses/ks3-chemistry>

KS3 course options

I offer two options for learning KS3 Chemistry; these include courses with weekly one hour live classes or pre-recorded lessons.

Both courses include:

- Term time only weekly classes, over approximately 35 weeks of the year.
- Workbook style notes for each session. These ensure students have notes to refer back to, without them needing to do significant amounts of writing. This helps to maintain a good pace within lessons and supports students with SEND. The notes also encourage engagement in activities, as they have space for answers.
- Follow up work for each class. This includes suggested practical work, quizzes, research tasks or a few questions to answer. Mark schemes will be provided where appropriate. Completion of these tasks is optional at KS3, although I do recommend engaging with them to help consolidate understanding and experience the joy of practical work.
- Access to my KS3 course site, where the pre-recorded lesson videos can be found, follow up work, links to text book pages and activities, as well as electronic quizzes.
- The pre-recorded lessons are designed as stand alone lessons, rather than just a recording of a live class. This means that they work effectively for learning, whether choosing to use this as the primary method of learning or having them to support the live classes.

Types of KS3 courses explained in detail

Live Classes

- The live classes contain a maximum of 8 students. Typically, I find class numbers do tend to end up slightly lower, e.g. at around 6 students. I find this is a good number for a class, in terms of giving us a range of ideas for discussions, but small enough for all students to participate.
- Classes are very interactive, as Chemistry is a subject where students must build their own understanding. I do ask that in the classes, students should have their cameras on and to be prepared to speak as the norm. (Please note, that I am willing to discuss this if students have a specific learning need.) I often find that my students like to type extra ideas into the chat box as well, and this is great as it keeps them even more involved in the class. If you don't want this level of engagement, then why not consider following the pre-recorded videos.
- Classes take place via Zoom, using a whiteboard on a shared screen. We also regularly use Kahoot for quizzes and individual electronic whiteboards, which enables me to coach students and give individual feedback on their work.
- Copies of the class whiteboard notes are available after each session in case students run out of time on an activity and want to return to it later.
- Students are given individual log-ons for my KS3 course site. This provides pre-recorded lessons, enabling review or catch up if they miss a class. They are also set regular electronic quizzes on here as part of their follow up work.
- Students can always send me a message via the classroom if they have any queries about their learning outside of classes.
- I provide regular written feedback to parents via email, especially if I ever have any concerns. I encourage parents to contact me if they have any questions or concerns from their end.

This course costs £12.50 per class.

Class time for 2023 - 24 academic year - Wednesday 9.15 - 10.15 am

KS3 Pre-Recorded Course

- This runs via my KS3 course site. For the coming academic year, it will run as a self-paced course, meaning that all lessons will be available as soon as the course is purchased (rather than a lesson released per week). This will allow increased flexibility of studying. Students can choose to study a lesson per week, in which case the course will span an academic year. Alternatively, the course can be condensed into a shorter time period e.g. if wanting to study it prior to beginning an IGCSE Chemistry Course. Extended access for longer than a year is offered if students wish to spread learning over a longer time period. Students can of course join the course at any stage in the year.
- Each class contains a pre-recorded lesson, which is designed to take approximately an hour. The timing will vary for individual students, depending on how long the activities take them. The classes are interactive and students are instructed to pause the video and try activities during the class. These activities are contained within the class notes, which they should print off in advance of each class, or complete electronically if they prefer. There are also optional self-marked consolidation tasks for follow up work, as well as regular electronic quizzes enabling them to check their understanding.
- **This course costs £75** and is available to purchase via my course site, where a free preview of the first lesson can also be found:
<https://courses.candochem.com/courses/ks3-chemistry>

KS3 course reviews

"My daughter absolutely loves Kate's KS3 classes, they are genuinely the highlight of her week, and of all the teachers we have come across throughout our home education journey, Kate is, by far and away, the best we have encountered. Her attention to detail, meticulous planning and provision of high-quality resources (including practical demonstration videos), together with Kate's wealth of experience, evidently high level of expertise, enthusiasm, sense of humour and genuine concern for her students means my daughter has felt inspired and supported throughout the course so far and cannot wait to move on to studying Chemistry at IGCSE level and beyond. Thank you so much Kate!"

V.C., April 2022

"Kate is an absolute treasure and we feel very lucky to have found her. Her teaching style is very clear, she takes huge trouble to ensure all the students enjoy Chemistry, and is very responsive to emails and queries. I really don't know how we would have managed Chemistry without her. Thank you Kate."

S.D., April 2022

"We have found Kate to be highly knowledgeable and effective at delivering a really engaging Chemistry course at both KS3 and IGCSE levels. The sessions have been fully interactive and enjoyable for the kids, and Kate is careful to ensure the whole class understands new topics. Homework is marked very quickly, with lots of feedback and encouragement, including practical experiments we have been able to do at home in the kitchen with the kids. Classes are kept to a small size. Very highly recommended!"

C.P., April 2022

"We are delighted that we have found Kate to teach our daughter Chemistry. It is now her favourite subject and she is growing in confidence. Kate is professional, easy to contact and clearly knows her subject! I am very happy to recommend Kate."

Parent, February 2023

"The course is fun and interactive."

Student, February 2023

"While doing the KS3 course I have found that I really enjoy Chemistry. It is a small class which is nice because you can engage more with it, and you get work to do yourself either inside or outside the class, which means you learn more as well."

Student, February 2023

"Kate has created a comprehensive, well-organised course that makes chemistry fun!"

Parent, February 2023

Edexcel IGCSE Chemistry Courses

IGCSE course information

Specification details

Pearson International GCSE in Chemistry (4CH1)

Prior knowledge and suitability

It is not essential to study KS3 Chemistry prior to taking IGCSE Chemistry, as I do cover all concepts needed. However, those students who have not studied Chemistry previously, will need to be prepared to do extra work between classes, as they will have more new ideas to take on board, which will make it a steeper learning curve. If students don't have much of a background in KS3 Chemistry, then one option would be to work through my Pre-Recorded KS3 Course, in advance of starting the IGCSE course, as a way to help them to get off to a flying start in their IGCSE studies.

Students should be studying (I)GCSE Maths alongside Chemistry. All (I)GCSE Chemistry specifications have become more mathematical in recent years and at least 20% of the marks in the current exams require use of mathematical skills. **Students should not enrol in a course aiming at them sitting their IGCSE Chemistry exams substantially ahead of (I)GCSE Maths.** If students are not studying at a similar level in their Maths, they will struggle with the more mathematical aspects of the Chemistry course. Given the nature of Chemistry, where we build on earlier knowledge, they do need to understand work as we cover it, to enable them to then access later ideas, otherwise they end up out of their depth, which is a situation that I like to avoid for everyone's sake!

I have designed a teaching order for the 2-year Chemistry IGCSE course, which leaves some of the more complex and more mathematical topics until later in the course, when students have built confidence and are that bit more mature. This has always been standard practice in the schools in which I have taught and works really well. So please don't worry unduly about the emphasis on the Maths side of the course, but I do want to avoid the situation where students struggle because they are aiming at taking their Maths exams a year after their Chemistry exams.

There is no shying away from the fact that Chemistry is a conceptually challenging subject, and as such it is only fair to point out that it is not an appropriate subject choice for everyone! Given the mathematical content, I do recommend as a guide that students should be aiming at a Grade 7 minimum in (I)GCSE Maths, in order to access the Chemistry course. Most students will find Chemistry difficult at some point and for many of my students it is the first time that they have encountered this level of challenge. I work with families when difficulties hit, to help students get on track, with advice and encouragement about appropriate study skills and strategies to help engage with a

difficult subject. On the plus side, this builds resilience and study skills that will stand them in good stead across all their subjects. Students who will flourish on my courses, do need to be prepared for a challenge though and to seek help when needed.

I strongly recommend that generally it is best if students in general will be at least Year 10 equivalent when they aim to sit their IGCSE Chemistry exams. With this in mind, I do not normally recommend starting a 2-year course before they are Year 9 equivalent. There are however of course exceptions to this! One of the strengths of home education is the ability to spread out when students take exams. However, given the complexities of IGCSE Chemistry, students are generally better able to access the subject content and perform at their best in the exams when they have that extra maturity, which comes with age. If planning to spread out GCSE subjects over 2-3 years, Chemistry is one that does usually benefit from coming later on in the process. If you do decide to delay starting a course having read this, then you are welcome to pass your details to me to keep in touch about courses for the following year.

IGCSE content and assessment

As part of the Edexcel IGCSE, students study four areas of Chemistry: Principles of Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry and Organic Chemistry. For a detailed break down of content, I recommend looking at the specification.

As well as the theory, and the 20% mathematical content, students have to learn about core practicals. A minimum of 15% of the total marks in the exam must be on questions related to practical work. The questions do not have to be specific to the core practicals but can be on related practicals, requiring them to apply their knowledge. This means that a detailed understanding of the course and exam papers is invaluable in teaching this aspect effectively. In order to help students engage with and understand the practical content in the detail required, I have produced videos of all of the core practicals and others for which knowledge is frequently required. These take students through the key explanations, along with follow up questions and exemplar data to analyse, where appropriate, to build the essential practical understanding. I also link typical exam questions to each core practical and ensure that practical questions are embedded in end of topic exam questions and tests, to build the necessary skills to answer questions around this side of the course effectively.

Students sit two examinations for the IGCSE - a 2 hour Paper 1 and a 75 minute Paper 2. Paper 1 is the same as that sat for Combined Science, so covers aspects of all of the four areas of Chemistry. Paper 2 can examine any aspect of the specification. Much of the Paper 2 only content is in the form of relatively minor additions to the Paper 1 content, but there are some additional topics, which tend to be more complex. I teach all of the Paper 1 content first, including the relevant smaller aspects of Paper 2 content, before returning to the more complex stand-alone Paper 2 topics. This allows students to begin

revision for Paper 1 at an earlier stage and as we cover the Paper 2 specific topics, we are able to build on earlier understanding and review prior learning.

Examinations are offered in the summer (May / June) and November. My 2-year courses aim at the summer examination. However, the timing of the November sitting allows for a delay if any students do not feel ready for the summer sitting and want a more gentle build up to exam readiness.

IGCSE courses offered

- 2-year IGCSE course with weekly live classes, starting in September '23, aiming at summer '25
- Pre-recorded course - self paced and 2-year versions available

Extras

For those students using the pre-recorded lessons, I offer two add-on packages. Options include marking and feedback on the topic tests and mock exams, as well as access to support either via email or twice weekly drop-in help sessions. There are also fortnightly masterclasses, which focus on clarifying and deepening understanding and applying learning to answer questions. Much of the work is carried out on individual electronic whiteboards, allowing me to give individual coaching and feedback, whilst still allowing students to work at a pace that suits them.

I have some students who combine the pre-recorded lessons with individual tuition, enabling them to study Chemistry over a shorter timescale e.g. 1 year and still benefit from specialised individual input.

Individual tuition can be arranged on an ad-hoc basis to support students following any of my courses e.g. if they have a few queries that they would like to sort out, or a specific topic with which they would like some extra help.

Do please contact me if you would like to discuss an individualised program that does not match one of my existing courses.

A sample pre-recorded class to give you an idea of my teaching style and resources can be found on my course site:

<https://courses.candochem.com/courses/self-paced-igcse-chemistry>

All IGCSE courses include:

- Workbook style notes for each session, which include key notes and explanations, exemplar questions that act as worked examples and topic specific exam questions. Students use the notes during the course of each lesson, adding information and answering questions. The format of these ensures that students have high quality notes to refer back to, without them needing to do significant amounts of writing, as well as examples of how to apply their knowledge to answer typical questions. I find the notes also help students to stay focussed in lessons, as they have clear tasks to complete. They have been a particular help for my SEND students, but all students benefit from them.
- Consolidation work to follow each lesson. This typically consists of worksheet style questions, topic specific exam questions, electronic quizzes and for live class students, working through practical videos when appropriate. Mark schemes are provided for all written work and this should be self-marked by students / parents. Please note the consolidation work is an essential part of the course, to enable students to develop understanding and embed learning. They cannot get through IGCSE Chemistry on the classes alone, as without practice they will not become confident in the skills and application of knowledge that is required.
- Regular topic tests (8 total). These are based on past exam questions and help to ensure essential learning is done throughout the course, as well as building exam technique.
- Videos of all the core practicals (and extras), along with follow up questions and exemplar data to analyse, where appropriate, to build the essential practical understanding.
- Access to my Quizlet Class, which has a set for every topic. These help with learning definitions and key terminology required for more recall based answers.

Types of IGCSE courses explained in detail

IGCSE Live Classes

- Classes are an hour and take place in term time only.
- The classes contain a maximum of 8 students, but typically, class numbers do tend to be slightly lower once numbers stabilise and you can expect them to end up at around 6 students. I find this is a good number for a class, in terms of giving us a range of ideas for discussions, but small enough for all students to participate and for me to be able to give lots of individual feedback on their work on the individual electronic whiteboards.
- Classes are very interactive, as Chemistry is a subject where students must build their own understanding. I do ask that in the classes, students should have their cameras on and be willing to speak as the norm. (Please note, that I am willing to discuss this if students have a specific learning need.) I often find that my students like to type extra ideas into the chat box as well, and this is great as it keeps them even more involved in the class. If this level of interaction is unlikely to suit your child, why not consider the pre-recorded course, possibly with additional masterclasses.
- Classes take place via Zoom, using a whiteboard on a shared screen. We also use Kahoot for quizzes and Classkick for individual electronic whiteboards.
- Copies of the class whiteboard notes are available after each session, in case students run out of time on an activity and want to return to it later.
- Students are provided with individual log-ons for the electronic version of my IGCSE Course. This includes lots of activities to support their independent learning between classes, including regular quizzes, which I set as part of their homework, and practical videos. They also have access to the pre-recorded lessons, covering similar learning activities. As these have been designed to be stand-alone, they are much more effective than just a recording of the live class. The pre-recorded lesson enable easy and effective catch up if students miss a class, or the opportunity to revisit tricky concepts, helping to keep them on track. My class students tell me that they also find the course site really helpful for supporting their revision.
- Topic tests (8 total), an end of Year 1 exam and a set of mock exams (Paper 1 and Paper 2) are marked by me, with detailed written feedback, to guide further learning.
- Independent work is set following each class, which consists of a variety of activities to consolidate learning. The worksheets and exam questions are self-marked, but students can always access help with a message via the classroom, or by coming to a drop-in help session. Please note, this independent work is an essential component of

the course and students should schedule up to two hours a week for independent learning, ideally split across two sessions.

- Drop-in help sessions take place twice weekly in scheduled time slots and enable all students to access individual help if needed e.g. to review a tricky concept that they aren't sure about, or to ask for help with a specific homework question.
- I provide regular written feedback to parents via email. I share copies of test feedback with parents and also give regular quick updates based on student performance in classes, and to highlight if they have any specific gaps in their learning that would be worth them addressing before the next lesson. This helps to maximise student progress and ensures that parents know promptly if additional support or encouragement might be needed at home. I very much view student learning as a team effort! I encourage parents to contact me if they have any questions or concerns from their end, as establishing good communication is key to students succeeding.

This course costs £17.50 per week.

Class times for 2023 - 24 academic year: Tuesday 1.30 - 2.30 pm or Thursday 9.15 - 10.15 am

IGCSE Pre-Recorded Course

- This is a 66 lesson course, comprising 58 pre-recorded lessons with follow up work, and 8 sets of end of topic revision resources and self-marked topic tests, which are intended to be used in lieu of a lesson for that week's learning session. The course also contains over 35 electronic quizzes, allowing regular progress checks.
- Each pre-recorded lesson is designed to take approximately an hour, although there will be some variation in length in order to give sensible topic splits and the timing will of course vary for individual students. The lessons are interactive and students are instructed to pause the video and try activities, before being given an explanation of the answers. These activities are contained within the class notes, which they should print off in advance of each class, or complete electronically if they prefer.
- Students can choose to follow either the self-paced version of this course, or a 2-year option. The self-paced course gives students access to all the lessons at once. The 2-year version, is drip-fed, with one lesson released per week in term time, over 5 terms.
- The **self-paced course costs £175** and can be purchased via my course site, with the first lesson available as a free preview:
<https://courses.candochem.com/courses/self-paced-igcse-chemistry>
- For the 2 year course, you can either buy it via my course site for £175, or you can choose to spread the cost with five termly payments of £40 (£200 total). To pay by instalments, please complete the booking form here:
<https://forms.gle/n3PAQVmFLXmkcU536>

Course Upgrades

Self-Paced IGCSE Chemistry with Marking

Marking and feedback on the 8 topic tests and 2 mock exam papers, as well as access to support either via email or twice weekly drop-in help sessions in term time.

The drop-in help sessions can make all the difference to students following my Pre-Recorded Courses, as it provides them with an opportunity to access individual support and ask any questions on a regular basis, rather than problems building up. The drop-in help sessions run via Zoom, using an electronic white board for explanations.

For the 2022-23 academic year the drop-in help sessions run on Monday and Wednesday at 11.45 – 12.45 (UK time) in term time. 2023-4 times will be shared before the end of the summer term, to help facilitate planning.

Test marking and feedback helps to provide an accurate picture of student performance and can be really helpful in terms of guiding further work. It can be difficult for students to know how to interpret mark schemes - especially at the start of their learning journeys. As an examiner, I am adept at appropriate marking, which is in line with that of the exams.

For mock exams, I provide up to date papers when students are ready to sit them. They can take them whenever they feel ready in their own time. Alternatively, I run live mock sessions over Zoom – in February for Paper 1 and April for Paper 2. This helps to provide a more serious experience, which is a good stepping stone towards the actual exams.

Marking of topic tests is carried out electronically via Google Classroom. This requires students to scan their tests and upload them as a single pdf file. Further guidance is provided on how to do this e.g. through mobile phone apps. I aim to provide marking and feedback within a week as the norm in term time, although it is often faster. Please do allow longer during holiday periods.

Cost: £350 total (including the Pre-Recorded Course cost)

Please contact me to discuss a payment plan if you would like to pay termly.

Masterclasses

Fortnightly 1 hour live masterclasses run on Tuesdays at 10.30 – 11.30 am. This is available as an add-on to either the standard Self-Paced IGCSE Course, or the Self-Paced IGCSE Course with marking.

Masterclasses are designed as a follow up to the pre-recorded lessons, helping to keep the course cost effective and enabling students to complete the initial learning at a time and pace that suits them. Having to complete the lessons in order to access the masterclasses helps bring accountability to learning, which can be really useful for keeping students on track.

The live masterclass sessions focus on clarifying and deepening understanding and applying learning to answer questions. Much of the work is carried out on individual electronic whiteboards, allowing me to give individual coaching and feedback, whilst still allowing students to work at a pace that suits them. Lessons also include activities such as class Kahoot quizzes, as well as aspects focused on study skills and deepening learning, such as making mind maps for topics, working through summary sheets etc. I do adapt my teaching within these sessions to respond to the needs of the group e.g. taking time out to revisit concepts which they haven't grasped and building extra questions into sessions to address these.

Unlike in my weekly live classes, students do not need to have their cameras on for masterclass sessions and do not need to speak if they do not wish to. They do of course have to be prepared to engage with the activities set. This means that these sessions may appeal to students who might be put off from my standard live classes due to the level of engagement required. I find that my students often make good use of the chat box in these sessions, or writing notes on their whiteboard screens to ask for help as needed.

There are a maximum of 8 students in masterclasses, which enables me to give plenty of individual feedback on their work. I also send regular updates to parents to let them know how students are getting on and whether there are any specific aspects on which they need to do further work.

The masterclass schedule for the next academic year will be provided before the summer.

Cost: £10 per masterclass, payable termly in advance.

Want to learn Chemistry IGCSE over 1-year?

I generally recommend a 2-year course as the better option for the majority of students. Given the level of skills and the application of knowledge that is needed to achieve success in Chemistry, I find that students benefit from spreading this out over a longer period of time. Studying over two years gives students more time to consolidate their understanding and build exam technique. It also ensures that they have time to fully get to grips with the content of each lesson, before moving onto the next one. This is really important, as we need earlier knowledge to be secure in Chemistry to facilitate building new ideas on it, otherwise students can rapidly get out of their depth in the subject.

I do however, have students coming to me who are that bit older and need to take their IGCSE within a year. Sometimes they have already been studying with another provider but find they would benefit from my typically more extensive resources and course detail. In this situation, I recommend my self-paced Pre-Recorded Course as an effective way for them to work through the content at a pace that is appropriate for them. If wanted, this can be supported by individual tuition to help keep them on track and deal with any problems as they occur. This can be tailored to suit individual requirements. Please contact me directly to discuss this.

IGCSE teaching order

Term	Two-year IGCSE
Autumn '23 Half Term 1	Principles of Chemistry: fundamentals, states of matter, compounds and mixtures.
Autumn '23 Half Term 2	Principles of Chemistry: atomic structure, Periodic Table, structure and bonding part I.
Spring '24 Half Term 1	Principles of Chemistry: structure and bonding part I. Organic Chemistry: introduction, crude oil, alkanes.
Spring '24 Half Term 2	Organic Chemistry: alkenes and addition polymers. Inorganic Chemistry: Groups 1 and 7.
Summer '24 Half Term 1	Inorganic Chemistry: chemistry of the atmosphere, acids, bases and salts.
Summer '24 Half Term 2	Inorganic Chemistry: reactivity series, chemical tests.
Autumn '24 Half Term 1	Principles of Chemistry: moles calculations.
Autumn '24 Half Term 2	Physical Chemistry: energetics, rates of reaction
Spring '25 Half Term 1	Paper 2 top up: Part 1.
Spring '25 Half Term 2	Paper 2 top up: Part 2.
Summer '25 Half Term 1	Revision

IGCSE course reviews

Courses with weekly live classes

"I highly recommend Kate's IGCSE class. Kate is a true expert in her field and has created a thoroughly engaging, well thought out and detailed course. The structure is excellent, the resources detailed and thorough. The extra video course and online quizzes for each topic invaluable, as well as the drop in sessions. Kate is an extremely conscientious teacher, and appears fully aware of how each student is getting on at all times. She's easy to get hold of, quick to respond to any queries and contacts us as parents directly if she feels our child hasn't quite been on track that particular day. I couldn't be more confident going forward. It is a cut above anything else I have found out there for IGCSE. I only wish I could find similar courses for other subjects!"

Parent, February 2023

"Kate's lessons are thorough and engaging. My daughter appreciates the structure and completeness of the course. The online learning materials, homework and classes work well together to ensure comprehensive learning and practice."

Parent, February 2023

"Kate has a passion for teaching Chemistry and her enthusiasm is infectious. My daughter has flourished since taking up classes and it means I don't have to put in the effort myself to make sure she is on top of her game."

Parent, February 2023

"Kate is very thorough and gives excellent individual feedback. The course is very well organised and I am confident my son is in good hands!"

Parent, February 2023

"Kate is an excellent teacher and out of all my teachers, she is the best and I look forward to her lessons!"

Student, February 2023

"A very helpful, and encouraging teacher. She helps a lot with any questions and all the homework solidifies the learning. I found the Kahoots very useful as it solidifies the learning and keeps you on top of the work. I don't recommend missing the lesson, but there are recordings available as well, so those helped ensure that I didn't miss out on anything. The newly added online course was also very useful for revising old topics, watching videos, and completing quizzes. It was also very well structured, and the ability to mark something as completed gives you an idea of what you've covered and what you need to work on. All in all, I would definitely recommend her as a teacher."

Student, February 2023

"I really enjoy the Chemistry classes and look forward to them. I am confident in my understanding of Chemistry due to these classes. Thank you."

Student, February 2023

"I feel very lucky to have found Kate at CanDoChem. She is an expert and obviously knows her subject inside out, making top grades accessible to home ed students. Her lessons are enjoyable and very well planned. All resources are available online and everything about the course is incredibly well organised. She cares about her students and notices if one is struggling or having a tough day and is very quick to feedback to parents. I could not recommend her highly enough."

S.H., April 2022

"We have found Kate to be highly knowledgeable and effective at delivering a really engaging Chemistry course at both KS3 and IGCSE levels. The sessions have been fully interactive and enjoyable for the kids, and Kate is careful to ensure the whole class understands new topics. Homework is marked very quickly, with lots of feedback and encouragement, including practical experiments we have been able to do at home in the kitchen with the kids. Classes are kept to a small size. Very highly recommended!"

C.P., April 2022

"My daughter really enjoys Kate's lessons, the small group size is great for her concentration and the lessons are both interesting and fun. I get regular feedback from Kate about how my daughter is doing, and the half termly tests are also very helpful. Really happy that we found Kate, I would thoroughly recommend her!"

K.R., April 2022

"We pay a bit more for Kate's classes, but the standard of teaching and resources is very high and we get much more feedback. It's very well structured. Our son is keen on Chemistry and one year in we are finding that this is teaching him how to work for an exam as well as the subject. Kate's expectations are high, and she supports the students to do well."

S.P., April 2022

"I would highly recommend CanDoChem for IGCSE Chemistry. My child enjoys the classes, the structure and the teaching is of an excellent standard with plenty of support available."

C.W., April 2022

"My daughter Ruby struggled with Chemistry, but very soon after commencing online classes with Kate, it began to fall into place! Kate is a great teacher and her enthusiasm and knowledge has helped Ruby gain a much better understanding of the subject."

K.A. April 2022

"I have to thank you for having the course incredibly well structured. Your clear and precise explanations make it easy for F to follow the 1 year course (considering he had virtually no previous knowledge) and he knows what is expected to get the high grades he is aiming for. Your immediate feedback and clear instructions on how to improve make it a pleasure for me as a parent who has very little knowledge, as it means I can leave it to your teaching and F revising to achieve what he wants. It is a real pleasure to have you so passionate about your subject and being such a great teacher. Thanks so much, wish there were more like you out there."

A.R. March 2021

"Kate is, without doubt, the best Science teacher/tutor I have come across. She has become the bar with which I now compare others. Kate combines subject mastery with teaching brilliance. She is a rare find."

L.E. January 2021

"We are big fans of Dr Kate's Home Ed IGCSE Chemistry online group classes! My son was a beginner at Chemistry (albeit with a good general Science knowledge) but he is motivated to rise to the high standards that Dr Kate sets in the class as a result of the meticulous planning, personal attention, gamification (my son loves the Chemistry Kahoots) she provides and through creating an encouraging and friendly environment.

Regular homework and tests ensure that the skills the students learn in this tricky subject are consolidated. While reviewing one of the class recordings, I found myself following on for a good 15 mins re-learning atomic structure as Dr Kate broke down the topic into manageable chunks, while gently checking the students' understanding as she went along.

As an examiner, Dr Kate encourages the depth and precision required to answer questions to exam standards. Exam paper questions have been introduced from the beginning and students are shown how to answer in a way that gains full marks.

The small size of the groups is a huge bonus; the students can have their camera on and use the mic to answer questions, which makes the class a highly interactive experience

My son takes / has taken quite a few online group classes and this is undoubtedly one of the best we have experienced so far."

C.M. January 2021

"My son is taking the 1 year intensive IGCSE class with Kate and I can say she has been brilliant all the way through. His confidence and enthusiasm for the subject has grown week by week and he now feels, with her help, he can achieve a top grade. The small class size offers just the right balance of personalised support and friendly interaction. Kate also offers extra drop in sessions for any lingering questions and excellent feedback for homework. I cannot recommend her highly enough."

S. M. January 2021

"I'd just like to say thanks for all the encouragement, support and amazing teaching. I now find Chemistry an engaging and interesting subject to learn and am aiming for a top grade."

J.M. January 2021

"My daughter was keen to study IGCSE Chemistry in one year and so she started the course. Very soon it became clear that the course was moving too quickly for her. After speaking with Kate, we all decided to change to the two-year course. This pace is perfect for her, she's really enjoying it and gaining confidence. The majority of homework is self-marked and Kate is always available to answer questions. Exams are set at the end of each topic; Kate marks them and provides very useful feedback.

I could not recommend Chemistry with Kate more highly. She is clearly passionate about her subject and provides interesting and stimulating lessons with positive feedback."

C.C. February 2021

Pre-Recorded Course

"CanDoChem is the best provider of science classes for home educators out there (and I've sampled quite a few). New concepts are introduced gradually and with plenty of reinforcement and encouragement. Class hand-outs have just the right amount of information and are great for revision. A lot of work has clearly gone into delivering a logically planned course, and it really shows!"

J.R., April 2022

"Learning with Kate is an absolute pleasure and the right solution for my daughter. Her video lessons are calm, easy to understand, interesting, very well structured and the notes/handouts and homework very clear and easy to follow."

G.WG, April 2022

Pre-Recorded Course with Masterclasses

"The quality of the teaching is fantastic. The sessions provided go above and beyond when it comes to detail and the smaller class size means that each child gets more attention than they would in a classic school environment. Kate always includes details and worksheets that help every student understand the content. The feedback is detailed and Kate is always quick on the trigger when it comes to answering any questions and queries. The resources provided gives students the opportunity to reinforce and practice their skills in Chemistry with extra drop in sessions proved if further support is needed. Overall I would strongly recommend CanDoChem to any parents considering this courses. I would like to offer my thanks to Kate for delivering an excellent learning experience."

J.J., February 2023

“Kate is amazing, she explains things thoroughly and makes sure I have a clear understanding of the topic, she always provides constructive feedback and will help with any problems, I feel confident to email her with any questions or problems and I look forward to my Chemistry lesson.”

Student, February 2023

“It's really useful and the way it's done helps make the subject easier. I also think that it's pretty easy to revise past topics if you need to because of all the material and notes you are given.”

Student, February 2023

Course timings

For the 2023 - 24 academic year, classes will be scheduled at the following times:

KS3 - Wednesday 9.15 - 10.15 am

IGCSE - Tuesday 1.30 - 2.30 pm or Thursday 9.15 - 10.15 am

IGCSE fortnightly Masterclasses - Tuesday 10.30 - 11.30 am

Please note for two year courses, the timing usually stays the same for the following year.

Course costs

Course / Add-on	Cost
KS3 Course with Live Classes	£12.50 per week
KS3 Pre-Recorded Course	£75 total
IGCSE Course with Live Classes	£17.50 per week
IGCSE Pre-Recorded Course	£175 total or £40 per term x 5
IGCSE Pre-Recorded Course with Marking	£350 total
IGCSE Pre-Recorded Add-On: Masterclasses	£10 per fortnightly masterclass

Courses charged per week are charged in term time only. See next page for term dates.

Please contact me to arrange a termly-payment plan for any of the Pre-Recorded Course options.

Please note that I endeavour to provide courses to support all budgets and levels of support. My courses do cost more than many home education courses, but I bring a wealth of experience and expertise to them and I believe that the level of detail in the course and the quality of the resources is pretty unique in a home education course. I am continually updating and improving my resources, to help make them even better. Producing the accompanying resources has been (and still is) a mammoth task, including extensive resource writing, hiring labs and filming all the practicals, to video production and editing. There are also subscriptions to take into account, which increase the quality and interactivity of the courses. I also spend a lot of time liaising with families and giving feedback / advice for those students who follow courses with live classes.

Bursary scheme

In order to ensure that all students are able to access Chemistry teaching, in these difficult financial times, I am pleased to be able to offer a bursary scheme for my Pre-Recorded courses, offering fully funded places. If you have a child who would love to study Chemistry, but you cannot afford the cost of the course, then please complete the electronic form linked below.

Bursary application form: <https://forms.gle/1HbQxRfWFCDaUe3r6>

Term dates 2023-24 (provisional)

Autumn 1 6/9/23 - 21/10/23

Autumn 2 31/10/23 - 16/12/23

Spring 1 4/1/24 - 17/2/24

Spring 2 27/2/24 - 31/3/24

Summer 1 17/4/24 - 26/5/24

Summer 2 5/6/24 - 21/7/24

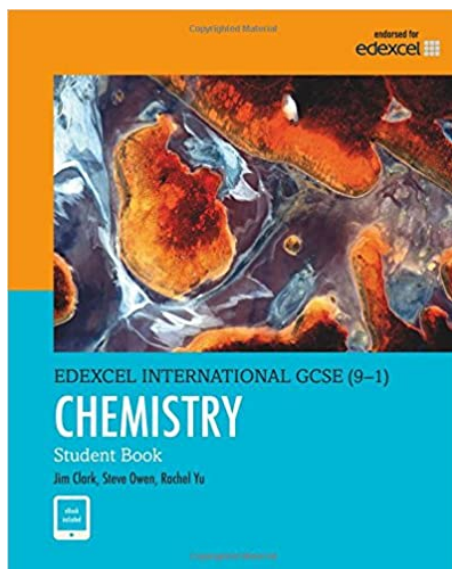
Please note that these dates may be subject to minor changes. I find that we often have a difference in exact holiday dates between different regions of the UK / other countries. I have to follow the dates which mesh with those of my own young children. But please don't worry if you want to follow slightly different dates, or are taking advantage of being able to holiday outside of peak school holiday season - this is the benefit of having the Pre-Recorded Course for catch up. (Although I have had students signing into my classes from different countries, camper vans, ferries and even car parks with a good internet signal because they don't want to miss the class!)

Text book recommendations

IGCSE:

I recommend buying the text book below. Whilst not essential, it is a very good source of extra information and practice questions, which I recommend as optional further consolidation work.

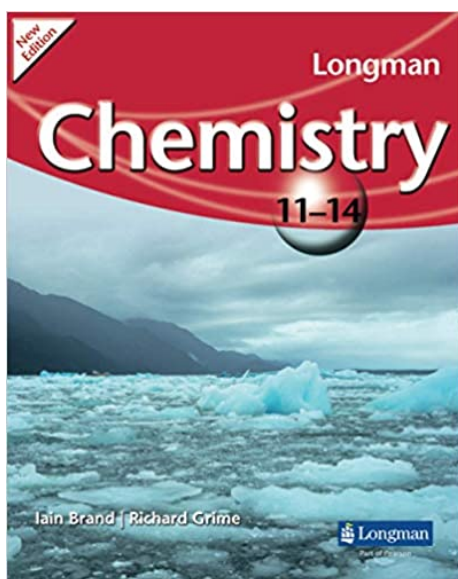
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) Chemistry Student Book – Jim Clark (June 2017)



KS3:

A text book for KS3 Chemistry is very much optional. I am not precisely following a set course, so there will not be an exact overlap. But should you wish to purchase a book to provide further information etc., then I recommend this book:

Longman Chemistry 11-14 – Richard Grime (September 2009)



Terms and conditions

Course including live classes / masterclasses

- In order to confirm your enrolment on a course, a **non-refundable deposit** of £75 for IGCSE live classes / £50 for KS3 and IGCSE masterclasses is required, which goes towards your first half term's fees (invoiced on receipt of your booking form). Invoices for the balance for the first half term's fees will be sent out before the summer. If numbers allow, I will happily transfer your booking to another class, should your plans change at any point.
- Should I not have sufficient numbers enrol on your chosen class for it to run, I will give you the choice of swapping to an alternative class or a refund of your deposit.
- After the first half term, classes are billed half termly in advance, due just before the start of each half term. An email reminder is sent if an invoice is not paid by the due date. A £10 admin fee will be added to the bill of any families requiring a second reminder.
- If you decide not to continue with the course on which your child is enrolled, you will lose access to the electronic resources.
- Classes are non-refundable if your child does not attend a session, as for live classes, students are directed to the relevant class in the Pre-Recorded Course and resources to enable catch up. For masterclasses, a copy of the resources will be provided.
- In the unusual event that I am unable to teach a scheduled live class, then I will direct students to a pre-recorded, class as an alternative to ensure that learning can continue, and credit your account with a discount to reduce the cost of the class to £7.50.
- Students must behave appropriately in classes. This includes arriving on time, with the right equipment and treating all class members with respect. Some students benefit from having a parent on hand for the first few classes to help get them into good habits e.g. having the notes to hand, getting on with the tasks set, writing down information etc. If a student's behaviour is not appropriate and is impacting the learning of others, I will seek your help to resolve the issue. In the unlikely event that we are not able to resolve the issue, then I reserve the right to remove the student from the course.
- Classes take place via Zoom. It is your responsibility to check that equipment is working appropriately and that you have an appropriate internet connection. It does help to run updates to Zoom periodically, particularly if you experience any problems.
- All classes take place at the stated UK time. Please note that if you are not based in the UK, this may result in the class time changing by an hour for you when we switch to daylight saving time.
- Parents are responsible for the booking of exams for their child, although I am more than happy to advise and support as necessary, particularly with regards to evidence for access arrangements, such as extra time for students with SEND. As a Learning

Partner with Tutors and Exams, parents are able to access a 15% discount on exam entry fees at the time of booking should you decide to enter through them. You will need to contact me for the code should you wish to take advantage of this.

- Course resources must not be shared with other families. Please note that I do offer a bursary scheme for my Pre-Recorded Courses if a family cannot afford the course fees.
- Students must not make their own recordings of classes.

Pre-Recorded Course

- Self-Paced Video Courses and 2-Year Video Courses include a 1 week cooling off period after the start of the course, during which time I will provide a full refund if you do not wish to continue with the course. After that time, courses are non-refundable.
- Students following the 2-year Video Course and paying by termly instalments, will lose access to the course if they do not maintain the scheduled course payments.
- There is no time limit for access to the Self-Paced Video Course. For students following the 2-Year Video Course, I will provide ongoing access to the Self-Paced Video Course if they wish to delay their exam sitting, so that they can continue to access resources.
- If choosing to follow the 2-Year Video Course, payment will be due termly in advance. This is taken via Stripe or bank transfer, with details on the invoice.

How to apply for a place on a course

To enrol your child in one of my Courses, then please follow the link to the electronic booking form:

<https://forms.gle/CpQL9F3mNVy1y2yx9>

Please note if wishing to purchase the KS3 Pre-Recorded Course, or IGCSE Self-Paced or 2-Year Course outright then this should be done through my course site:

<https://courses.candochem.com/>

Further information / contact details

Should you have any questions, or want any further information then please do not hesitate to contact me on candochem@gmail.com

It matters to me that we find the best fit for your child, so am always happy to offer further advice to help you make the right decision. Test