

# *CanDoChem*

# Chemistry Courses

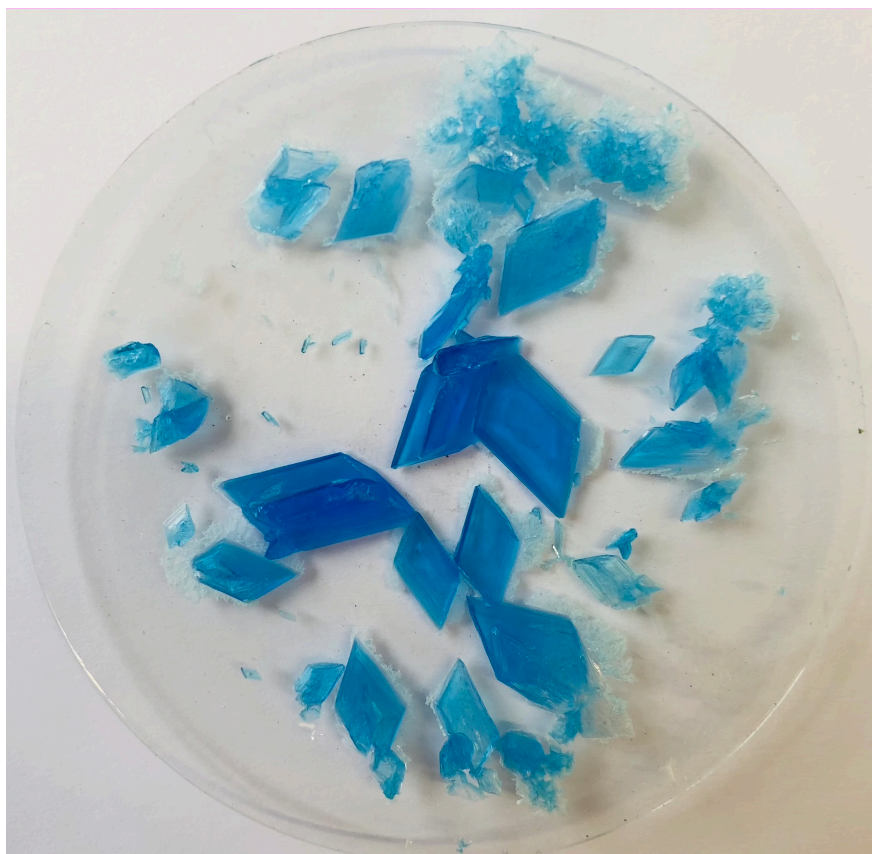
**Starting September '26**

Expert teaching of IGCSE Chemistry

Live classes & pre-recorded courses

aimed at home educated students

Created and taught by Dr Kate Nickson, MA MSci MEd PhD PGCE (Cantab)



## Contents

Introduction to CanDoChem	3
Why study Chemistry?	4
About me	5
IGCSE course information	6
Types of IGCSE courses explained in detail	10
Course upgrades	13
Comparison of IGCSE courses	15
Course costs	15
Want to learn IGCSE Chemistry over 1-year?	16
IGCSE teaching order	17
IGCSE course reviews	18
Term dates 2026-27 (provisional)	24
Terms and conditions	25
How to apply for a place on a live class course	26
Further information / contact details	26
CanDoChem Privacy Policy	27

## **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 as 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, as well as plenty of resources for practice. 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-ons including test marking and feedback, or individual tuition to consolidate / extend their learning. I provide entire courses at KS3 and IGCSE level, where all resources except a text book are provided. At present, I offer individual tuition at A Level for home educated students, which includes extensive learning resources and regular marked topic tests.

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 pre-recorded courses at both KS3 and IGCSE. My courses are aimed at students who are keen to aim high. Students should be aiming at a grade 7 minimum, in terms of being able to keep up with the pace of classes. While I do not expect all my students to achieve a Grade 9, I do work hard to stretch all individuals with the aim of ensuring everyone achieves the best possible outcome for them.

## **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 nearly twenty 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 (I)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 (I)GCSE to (I)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 of experience both in the classroom and working with home ed students, 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.

# 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.

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. 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 two to three 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 linear IGCSE - a two hour Paper 1 and a seventy five 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.

### ***Modular assessment instead of linear***

I teach the course in an order that is appropriate for linear assessment. This means that students will not be ready to take any module exams until the end of the course, if they want to follow the new modular assessment model. Many of my students continue to A Level and I believe that the linear model prepares them better for this, both in terms of the teaching order and available resources for exam preparation.

For those students wishing to take modular assessment (only available at Tutors and Exams centres), I would suggest that they take the modular paper 1 in the summer sitting at the end of the course and then take the modular paper 2 in the following November sitting. This will enable them to benefit from the best of both worlds with the sensible teaching order and the help of splitting up their exams. I will be happy to give students following the modular route continued access to resources beyond the end of the course, as well as providing and marking mock exams appropriate for the modular approach.

### ***IGCSE courses offered***

- 2-year IGCSE course with weekly live classes, starting in September '26, aiming at summer '28
- Pre-recorded course - available as standard, silver and gold packages, enabling study at a pace to suit you.

For those students following the pre-recorded course, I offer two upgrades on the standard self-marked course: the silver and gold packages. A brief overview of these is given below, with further detail included in the following pages.

The silver package includes marking and feedback on the topic tests and mock exams, as well as access to support via email.

The gold package includes a weekly tuition to consolidate learning, as well as marking and feedback on the topic tests and mock exams.

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.

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. While the notes are particularly beneficial for my SEND students, 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. (Note: for students following pre-recorded courses, the practical videos are embedded within the lesson videos.) Links to relevant questions in the text book are also provided, to support further independent work. 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 (eight 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 course runs over two years, beginning in September and aims at students sitting their exams the following summer. If anyone wants a longer revision period, the next exam sitting in the November can work well for this.
- The classes contain a maximum of 8 students, but typically, class numbers do tend to be slightly lower once numbers stabilise and often end up at 6 - 7 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 take place via Zoom, using a whiteboard on a shared screen. We also use a program called Classkick, which provides 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 as the norm. (Please note, that I am willing to discuss this if students have a specific learning need.) I encourage students to give verbal contributions to lessons, but this is not essential. Regular opportunities are provided for students to share ideas via the chat box, which I then disseminate to the class, which enables everyone to be involved in lessons. Students can also ask questions, either verbally or via the chat box.
- Classes usually begin with a starter task using individual whiteboards on Classkick. The tasks are designed to address learning needs that I have identified in the previous class, as well as requiring students to apply their prior learning. I find that these tasks are invaluable in terms of helping to bring accountability to students' learning as well as providing further opportunities to recap and practise application of knowledge and skills to answer questions. These tasks also allow me to coach students through tricky questions, as well as helping to identify aspects on which individual students might be struggling. There are opportunities for differentiation, both in terms of allowing students to work at their own speed, as well as enabling me to provide a choice of options of varying challenge when appropriate.
- The teaching of new ideas takes place using my whiteboard on a shared screen, which mirrors the content of their workbook style notes. This part of the lesson is structured to give students the opportunity to annotate their notes, as well as trying the tasks contained within them.
- Copies of the class whiteboard notes are available after each session. This allows students to add further detail to their notes if needed, or to return to any activities that

they may not have had time to complete within the lesson and then check their answers.

- 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 lessons 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.
- If students need some extra help with a tricky concept or a homework question they can contact me either via the Google Classroom messenger or via email for support.
- I make regular contact with parents via email. This includes copies of test feedback and also regular quick updates based on student performance in classes. I will always highlight any concerns about specific gaps in their learning or their independent work. 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 £18 per week.**

**Class times commencing in September 2026: Thursday 10.30 - 11.30 am.**

## **IGCSE Pre-Recorded Course**

- This is a sixty six lesson course, comprising fifty eight pre-recorded lessons with follow up work, and eight 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 thirty five 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.
- The activities provided for follow up work typically include worksheet style questions, topic specific exam questions and electronic quizzes. References to the relevant text book questions are also provided within the lesson descriptions to support further independent work. Students should be prepared to spend another one to two hours per week on follow up work to build the necessary skills required for success in IGCSE Chemistry.
- This is a self-paced course, meaning that all lessons are available for students to work through at the pace that suits them. Suggested timings are provided for completing it over either one or two years.
- Course access is set for two years in the first instance, but do contact me if you wish to extend this due to studying over a longer time period. I am also able to offer a payment plan, should you wish to spread the cost. Please contact me should you wish to find out more.

### **Cost: £200**

*Please contact me to discuss a payment plan.*

### **Link to purchase course outright:**

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

*The first lesson is available as a free preview.*

## Course upgrades

### Silver IGCSE Course Package

In addition to everything included within the standard course, this option includes marking and feedback on the eight topic tests and two mock exam papers, as well as access to support via email.

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 / March for Paper 1 and April for Paper 2. This helps to provide a more formal experience, which is a good stepping stone towards the actual exams.

The ability to access support via the Google Classroom or email can make all the difference to the progress of students following my pre-recorded courses. They are able to access individual support to deal with any problems or ask questions as they occur, rather than issues building up and hindering further progress.

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.*

### **Link to purchase course outright:**

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

*The first lesson is available as a free preview.*

### **Gold IGCSE Course Package**

In addition to everything included in the standard course and the marking and feedback of topic tests and mock exams, students on the gold package also have a weekly tuition in term time to consolidate their understanding of the lesson content. For those students wishing to continue studying during holiday periods, I am often able to facilitate tuitions on a more ad-hoc basis.

This package allows students to work through the pre-recorded lessons at a time and pace that suits them. In the tuitions we can then focus on clarifying and deepening understanding and applying learning to answer exam questions. These sessions are bespoke, meaning that I adapt the content to suit individual student's learning needs. Some students benefit from the opportunity to address areas of difficulties encountered in either the lesson or homework, while for others it is appropriate to extend their learning beyond the confines of the IGCSE specification. Regardless of students' individual abilities, the tuition helps to bring accountability to their learning, builds their confidence and develops their understanding and their ability to apply it to answer exam questions. The individual session helps me to stretch and challenge each individual student and helps to maximise their progress and attainment.

For students following 2-year course, I offer a weekly thirty minute tuition as the norm, usually consolidating the content of one lesson per tuition. For those students wanting to follow the course over 1-year, I suggest the tuition is an hour session to consolidate the content from two lessons as the norm. The tuition length though can of course be adapted to accommodate individual student needs.

**Cost £35 per half hour tuition (including the pre-recorded course access and marking)**

## Comparison of IGCSE courses

Included	Pre-recorded	Silver package	Gold package	Live Classes
Pre-recorded lessons	✓	✓	✓	✓
Workbook style notes	✓	✓	✓	✓
Practical videos	✓	✓	✓	✓
Follow up work (self-marked)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Electronic quizzes	✓	✓	✓	✓
Topic tests	✓	✓	✓	✓
Quizlet access	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marking of tests & mock exams		✓	✓	✓
Email support		✓	✓	✓
Weekly small group live class				✓
Weekly individual tuition			✓	

## Course costs

Course / Package	Cost
Pre-recorded	£200 total
Silver package	£350 total
Gold package	£35 per week (term time only)
Live Classes	£18 per week (term time only)

Please contact me to arrange a payment plan for any of the 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 or tuitions.

## **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 standard 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>

## **Want to learn IGCSE Chemistry 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 other cases they are starting from scratch. In this situation, I recommend my pre-recorded course as an effective way for them to work through the content at a pace that is appropriate for them. In order to complete the content within an academic year they need to be prepared to work through 2 pre-recorded lessons per week, with the associated independent work. They will usually need to do some additional learning over holiday periods to keep on top of the work e.g. topic tests. The standard pre-recorded package can be upgraded to either the Silver or Gold packages if further support is wanted.

## IGCSE teaching order

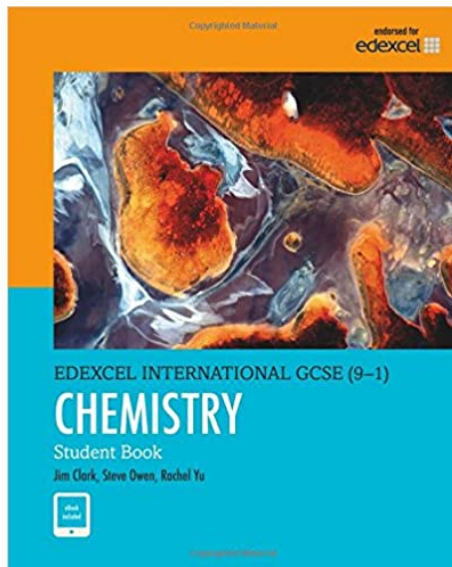
Term	Two-year IGCSE
Autumn year 1 Half Term 1	Principles of Chemistry: fundamentals, states of matter, compounds and mixtures.
Autumn year 1 Half Term 2	Principles of Chemistry: atomic structure, Periodic Table, structure and bonding.
Spring year 1 Half Term 1	Organic Chemistry: introduction, crude oil,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

*Please note, exact timings will vary slightly depending on term dates and learning needs.*

## IGCSE text book recommendation

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)*



## IGCSE course reviews

### Courses with weekly live classes

“I just wanted to write and thank you so very much for all of your help with H’s Chemistry over the past three years. You have been absolutely amazing throughout. He has learnt such a great deal, and come on so much under your guidance. We are really so very grateful and count ourselves incredibly lucky to have found you. There really aren’t any other providers (across subjects) who can match your level of dedication to your students, and I’m sure that will show in their results.”

*Parent, November 2024*

“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**

“We received C’s results today and wanted to share the great news — grade 9! We are incredibly proud of the hard work she put in to receive this fantastic grade. And we are extremely grateful to you for creating a clear and comprehensive collection of videos and thoughtful, encouraging feedback along the way. Your enthusiasm for the subject was obvious, and your knowledge of the exam was invaluable - thank you so much for sharing both. I have recommended your videos and tutoring many times and will continue to do so without hesitation. You have set a high bar for C's A-Level Chemistry teachers this autumn.”

*J.M. January 2026 (Silver Course package)*

“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 Upgrade**

“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*

## **Term dates 2026-27 (provisional)**

**Autumn 1** 2/9/26 - 23/10/26

**Autumn 2** 3/11/26 - 18/12/26

**Spring 1** 5/1/27 - 12/2/27

**Spring 2** 22/2/27 - 25/3/27

**Summer 1** 12/4/27 - 28/5/27

**Summer 2** 7/6/27 - 16/7/27

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 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!)

## Terms and conditions

### Course including live classes / individual tuition

- In order to confirm your enrolment on a course, a **non-refundable deposit** of £75 for IGCSE live classes 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.
- 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 usually set work for the class including use of a pre-recorded class, to ensure that learning can continue, and credit your account with a discount to reduce the cost of the class to £8. If I am unable to set them work, then I will of course credit your account with the fee for the missed class.
- 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.
- If students choose to follow any of the practical activities from the online course site, then it is your responsibility to ensure that they are appropriately supervised and working safely.

### **Pre-recorded courses**

- All pre-recorded course options 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 paying for courses by instalments, will lose access to the course if they do not maintain the scheduled course payments.
- Course access is for two years for IGCSE / 18 months for KS3 in the first instance, but do contact me if you wish to extend this due to studying over a longer time period.

### **How to apply for a place on a live class course**

To enrol your child in one of my live classes, then please follow the link to the electronic booking form: <https://forms.gle/y2XQLrkHwa5w81P77>

Please note if wishing to purchase the KS3, or IGCSE standard pre-recorded course or silver package 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](mailto: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.

## **CanDoChem Privacy Policy**

### **My contact details**

Name: Kate Nickson, CanDoChem Ltd.

E-mail: [candochem@gmail.com](mailto:candochem@gmail.com)

### **The type of personal information I collect**

I currently collect and process the following information:

- Name, email addresses and phone numbers for parent(s) / guardian(s)
- Names and ages of students
- Email addresses of students (when supplied)
- Student SEND / relevant medical information
- Any other relevant background information about students provided
- Copies of student work
- Student achievement data e.g. topic test scores, mock results

### **How I get the personal information and why I have it**

Most of the personal information I process is provided to me directly by you for one of the following reasons:

- To allow me to make contact with you to keep you updated on student progress.
- To enable me to teach your child effectively, with knowledge of anything that is likely to impact on how they learn, or specific difficulties that they may face.
- To enable students to log onto Google Classroom and my course site to access learning resources.
- From student work in classes / tuitions on the online whiteboard to enable me to help them practice application of knowledge to answer questions, build understanding, as well as assessing where further work may be needed.
- From student work submitted on Google Classroom in order for me to assess their attainment and provide feedback.

I use the information that you have given me in order to:

- Provide access to teaching resources.
- Plan effective teaching strategies.
- Assess student understanding and provide feedback on current attainment and targets to work on in order to improve understanding.
- Liaise with parents / guardians.

I may share this information with exam centres if needed for Access Arrangement applications or for references / predicted grades for school / college / UCAS applications. I will only do this if you have specifically asked me to do so and will never share any information that I hold without your knowledge and permission.

Under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the lawful bases I rely on for processing this information are:

**(a) Your consent. You are able to remove your consent at any time. You can do this by contacting candochem@gmail.com**

**(b) I have a contractual obligation.**

**(c) I have a legitimate interest.**

### **How I store your personal information**

Your information is securely stored.

I keep all information provided, including copies of student work and progress data until exam results are published. Within 1 month of this, giving me time to check that the information is no longer needed e.g. for any students wishing to do resits, I will then dispose of your information by deleting any copies of data held on my computer system e.g. mark books and contact details. I also delete the Google Classroom folders, copies of whiteboards and Classkick rosters, which store copies of student work. If students are not working towards an exam, then I will delete all data, as listed above, within 1 month of them ceasing tuition.

## **Your data protection rights**

Under data protection law, you have rights including:

**Your right of access** - You have the right to ask me for copies of your personal information.

**Your right to rectification** - You have the right to ask me to rectify personal information you think is inaccurate. You also have the right to ask me to complete information you think is incomplete.

**Your right to erasure** - You have the right to ask me to erase your personal information in certain circumstances.

**Your right to restriction of processing** - You have the right to ask me to restrict the processing of your personal information in certain circumstances.

**Your right to object to processing** - You have the the right to object to the processing of your personal information in certain circumstances.

**Your right to data portability** - You have the right to ask that I transfer the personal information you gave us to another organisation, or to you, in certain circumstances.

You are not required to pay any charge for exercising your rights. If you make a request, I have one month to respond to you.

Please contact me at [candochem@gmail.com](mailto:candochem@gmail.com) if you wish to make a request.

## **How to complain**

If you have any concerns about my use of your personal information, you can make a complaint to me at [candochem@gmail.com](mailto:candochem@gmail.com).

You can also complain to the ICO if you are unhappy with how I have used your data.

The ICO's address:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113

ICO website: <https://www.ico.org.uk>