

Why choose Science in Society?

- **Science in Society** builds upon the ideas about 'How science works' that you have studied in your main science GCSE.
- Whether your advanced studies are mainly scientific or non-scientific this course is for you. It tackles issues that are of interest to everyone. It explores the science behind the issue and what that tells us about science and society.
- Have an issue of local or personal interest? – make it your own research study. Have an issue you want to know more about? – choose the book make it the subject of your review.
- Universities want students who know how to research and present their arguments – that is what **Science in Society** is all about.

- o Infectious diseases: how do we study and tackle them?
- o Medicines: how are treatments developed and ethical concerns met, for example in making reproductive choices (like IVF) and genetic counselling?
- o Technical decisions, for example in transport issues that affect our lifestyle and the environment or in assessing radiation risks
- o Theories of evolution and cosmology affect how we see ourselves as part of 'life on Earth' and with a place in the universe – and there is continuing debate. But are we alone? Will we find life elsewhere in the universe, and when we do what will that mean for us and the way we think about ourselves?
- o Watching our brain: what do we know about how our brain works and what issues are raised by use of various drugs? Is there a 'memory' drug that will help us do better in exams...
- o Sustaining the variety of life on Earth: what is the value of keeping life the way it is? How do we model and make decisions, for example about climate change, that will affect all life in the future?

AS Science in Society explores a range of issues, each in a clearly defined context to help you develop your ideas about how science works and use your scientific knowledge from GCSE. You also undertake your own research study and write a review of a popular science book – your choice.

A2 Science in Society brings a more advanced study of several issues. You will be guided to explore these through a mix of reading, research and discussion.

At both AS and A2 there is an examination (60%) of the ideas about How science works that you have learnt through your study of the various issues. Your skills in communicating your arguments and understanding are assessed (40%) at AS through coursework and at A2 through a case study of a new issue.

Where will success take me?

This course is for scientists and non-scientists – supporting your ambition. Media, journalism, science, medicine, engineering, management, politics...