The Science Department - What is our Vision?

The Bolingbroke Academy Science department is committed in ensuring ALL pupils make greater than expected progress across all Key Stages in the subject of Science. We uphold and display the values of the Academy and encourage the pupils to also BE BOLD at every possible opportunity within our subject area. Our aim is to deliver six outstanding lessons to every pupil, every day, through strict adherence to the ten ‘Non-negotiable principles for outstanding teaching and learning’ set out in the Academy Teaching and Learning policy. The role played by support staff in the progress of our pupils is valued highly, as is the input of other Bolingbroke departments and parents and carers. We maintain strong links with all stakeholders involved with the achievement of our pupils in Science and through implementation of our six key pledges we ensure that the high expectations we have of them and each other translate into outstanding academic achievement.

- **100% practical** – Science is a practical based subject leading to practical based careers, thus, our lessons need to reflect this. We believe Science lessons without practical activity are the equivalent of English lessons without reading or writing, or Maths lessons without any problem solving. Therefore, to deepen understanding and contextualize the material taught, we pledge that ALL of our lessons will include some practical aspect, ranging from in depth scientific investigations to kinaesthetic activities.

- **Scientific Literacy** – Key Stage 4 and 5 pupils often fail to achieve their potential in examinations due to a lack of understanding of the correct scientific vocabulary. We pledge that the department will develop outstanding levels of scientific literacy within our pupils to ensure they can access examination questions, provide answers that include the correct scientific terminology and have a sound literary foundation come the beginning of their University course.

- **Scientific Skills** – The Bolingbroke Academy Science curriculum places great emphasis on the need for pupils, especially at Key Stage 3 level, to master a range of scientific skills. The teaching, assessment and review of these skills is often neglected, with greater time attributed to knowledge and content. However, pupils that can master these skills inevitably achieve greater success in examinations and enter their post-16 studies with a solid foundation from which to build upon.

- **Rigorous, knowledge-based curriculum** – Our Science curriculum has been designed to be as rigorous and challenging as possible. By the end of Year 9 (GCSE Foundation Year) each pupil will have amassed a substantial bank of scientific knowledge that will provide a solid foundation for the requirements of GCSE and A-level.

- **Taking risks** – We believe that pupils who progress the most academically and socially during their time in education are those who were taken out of their comfort zone on a regular basis and not allowed to ‘coast’. However, we as teachers cannot expect our pupils to BE BOLD if we aren’t ourselves. Thus, we pledge that we will take risks when delivering Science lessons to ensure they are engaging, stimulating and in turn encourage our pupils to learn.

- **Personal professional development** – Through regular observations, self-evaluation and feedback, we as professionals become aware of our own areas of practice that require development. We pledge that we will consult the most recent academic and pedagogical research to ensure we develop in the same way we ask our pupils to.