

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## APPLIED SCIENCE (BTEC)

**Rochdale**  
sixth form  
college

**1**

### **WHERE DO STUDENTS GO AFTER STUDYING APPLIED SCIENCE?**

Most RSFC students go onto university. From the diploma course students go onto healthcare related degrees, such as biomedical science, pharmacy, nursing, radiography or more traditional science degree courses such as biomedical science and forensics. Students who want to do science at university often choose a science foundation course initially, to increase their science knowledge.

**2**

### **WHY SHOULD I DO THE BTEC APPLIED SCIENCE COURSE INSTEAD OF A LEVEL SCIENCE?**

If you don't meet the requirements to study a science related A level and you want to carry on with science beyond GCSE – BTEC is the best pathway. BTECs include coursework, not just exams at the end of 2 years. None of the A levels sciences have coursework, but for applied science, half the marks for your overall grade come from coursework that you have completed. Applied science includes formal exams and externally set practical and research tasks that you do under supervised conditions. If you would rather work steadily towards your grade over two years than just rely on exams at the end of the 2 years, then a BTEC is right for you.

**3**

### **WHY DO I HAVE TO STUDY ALL 3 SCIENCES?**

All the compulsory units for both courses involve all 3 sciences. The optional units we offer are biology and chemistry based, as most students on this course are interested in some science to back up their other courses. It's good to study equal amounts of the 3 sciences to keep your options open after college as many students change their mind about their career path.

**4**

### **HOW DO THE GRADES ON BTEC COURSES COMPARE TO A LEVEL COURSES?**

BTECs are graded at distinction\*, distinction, merit or pass. This is equivalent to A level grades of A\*, A, C or E. In terms of applying to University, they are worth the same amount as the equivalent A level grade.