

Aim High Step Descriptors		Key Stage 3 Science		
		A	B	C
		Scientific Knowledge	Scientific Understanding	Working Scientifically
Working Towards Year 7 expectations.	Step 1	Students can recall simple facts from Key Stage 1&2 science.	Students can correctly explain familiar observations using common sense reasoning.	Students can complete simple practical tasks following a teacher demonstration. Students are aware of safety measures.
	Step 2	Students can recall new substantive knowledge from within a lesson.	Students can explain familiar observations using correct scientific ideas covered in current topic.	Students can complete a practical task by following a simple set of instructions.
Working Above the expectations for Year 7 and at a greater depth. Working towards Year 8 expectations.	Step 3	Students can recall new knowledge from within a topic.	Students can explain familiar observations using correct scientific ideas and terminology covered in the current topic.	Students can identify the factor that is varied in an investigation and the factors that are controlled.
Working at the Expected Standard and are meeting the criteria as described by the curriculum area for Year 8.	Step 4	Students can recall scientific substantive knowledge using correct terminology from current and previous topics learnt.	Students can explain familiar observations using correct scientific terminology and concepts covered in the current and past topics.	Students can collect and display results in tables, charts and graphs. Students can carry out simple processing such as averaging.
Working Above the expectations for Year 8 and at greater depth. Working towards Year 9 expectations.	Step 5	Students can use detailed scientific knowledge from different topics to provide explanations to open questions.	Students can explain unfamiliar observations that require scientific terminology and concepts from more than one topic.	Students can analyse their data to make simple conclusions.
Working at the Expected Standard and are meeting the criteria as described by the curriculum area for Year 9.	Step 6	Students can use detailed knowledge to make predictions.	Students can apply their detailed knowledge and understanding from different topics to explain conclusions based on data presented.	Students can identify strengths and weaknesses in an experimental method and make suggestions for improvement.
Working Above the expectations for Year 9 and at a greater depth.	Step 7	Students can recall and apply detailed knowledge to answer written and numerical GCSE level questions.	Students can identify relationships in data and provide explanations based on detailed correct terminology, knowledge and understanding	Students can design their own experiments to investigate relationships, including equipment lists, risk assessments and tables.