

Science GCSE Careers Guide

Why Study Combined Science?

Science helps you understand how the world works, from how your body functions, to how technology is built, to how the environment changes.

At Nightingale Community Academy, our **GCSE Combined Science** course is designed to:

- Build confidence step by step
- Develop practical, hands-on skills
- Support SEMH learners with structured learning
- Show clear links between science and real jobs
- Provide progression routes after Year 11

You can study at:

- **Foundation Tier** – builds essential knowledge and practical understanding
- **Higher Tier** – prepares you for advanced study and higher grade outcomes

Both routes lead to **two GCSEs in Combined Science**.

What Careers Can Science Lead To?

You do not need to become a “scientist” to use science. Science opens doors in many industries — including hands-on, practical, and vocational careers.

Biology-Based Careers

(Health, care, animals, environment)

Foundation & Higher Pathways:

- Healthcare Assistant
- Nursery Nurse / Early Years Practitioner
- Animal Care Worker
- Sports Coach
- Beauty Therapist
- Fitness Instructor
- Support Worker
- Outdoor Activity Leader

With Further Study:

- Nurse
- Paramedic
- Midwife
- Physiotherapist

- Occupational Therapist

- Environmental Scientist
- Veterinary Nurse

Skills developed:

- Understanding the human body
- Health and wellbeing knowledge
- Observation skills
- Working calmly under pressure
- Caring for others

🔧 Chemistry-Based Careers

(Materials, construction, beauty, industry)

Foundation & Higher Pathways:

- Hairdresser / Barber
- Beauty Technician
- Construction Worker
- Motor Vehicle Technician
- Lab Technician (with Level 3 study)
- Catering & Food Production
- Manufacturing Operative

With Further Study:

- Forensic Scientist
- Pharmacist
- Chemical Engineer
- Cosmetic Scientist

Skills developed:

- Working safely
- Following instructions
- Understanding materials
- Measuring accurately
- Problem-solving

⚡ Physics-Based Careers

(Electrical, engineering, technology)

Foundation & Higher Pathways:

- Electrician (apprenticeship route)
- Plumber
- Heating Engineer
- Mechanic
- Engineering Apprentice
- Construction Trades
- Security Systems Installer

With Further Study:

- Mechanical Engineer
- Electrical Engineer
- Aerospace Engineer
- Renewable Energy Technician

Skills developed:

- Logical thinking
- Practical problem-solving
- Understanding energy and forces
- Technical skills

Why Science Is a Good Subject for SEMH Learners

Science lessons support:

- Clear routines and structured tasks
- Practical, hands-on activities
- Teamwork skills
- Emotional regulation through focus tasks
- Building resilience when solving problems
- Confidence through step-by-step progress

Many SEMH learners succeed in science because:

- It has clear right/wrong answers
- It rewards effort and persistence
- It connects to real life
- Practical work builds engagement

What Can I Do After GCSE Combined Science?

After Year 11, you could move on to:

College Courses:

- Level 2 or 3 Health & Social Care

- Level 2 or 3 Animal Care
- Level 2 or 3 Sport
- Level 2 or 3 Engineering
- Construction courses
- Public Services

Apprenticeships:

- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Motor Vehicle
- Healthcare Support
- Beauty Therapy
- Laboratory Technician

A Levels (Higher Tier recommended):

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Applied Science

Foundation vs Higher Tier – What's the Difference?

Foundation Tier	Higher Tier
Builds core knowledge	Covers more complex content
Grades 1–5	Grades 4–9
Strong support structure	More independent learning
Ideal for practical & vocational routes	Ideal for A Levels & advanced science careers

Staff will help you choose the right pathway based on your strengths and goals.

Skills Employers Value From Science

Studying science shows employers that you can:

- Follow instructions carefully
- Work safely
- Think logically
- Solve problems
- Work independently

- Work in a team
- Stay focused on tasks

These skills are valuable in **every industry**.

We Support You

At Nightingale Community Academy, we understand that learning can feel challenging at times. Our science curriculum includes:

- Structured lessons
- Clear explanations
- Practical learning opportunities
- Supportive staff
- Encouragement and praise
- Career-focused conversations

Careers Guidance & Support Links

If you would like extra help exploring your options, the following websites provide trusted careers information, quizzes, and advice for young people:

National Careers Service

Government careers advice, job profiles and course information.

 <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>

You can:

- Explore hundreds of job profiles
- See entry requirements
- Check salary expectations
- Find local training courses

UCAS

Information about college, sixth form, apprenticeships and university routes.

 <https://www.ucas.com>

Useful for:

- Post-16 and Post-18 options
- Understanding qualification pathways

Find an Apprenticeship

Official government apprenticeship website.

 <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk>

You can:

- Search live apprenticeship vacancies
- Learn how apprenticeships work
- Explore different industries

Success at School

Careers advice specifically for school students.

 <https://successatschool.org>

Includes:

- Career zone quizzes
- Employer guides
- Apprenticeship advice
- Subject-to-career matching

iCould

Real-life career videos showing people talking about their jobs.

 <https://icould.com>

Helpful for:

- Watching short videos about different career journeys
- Seeing how people overcame challenges

NHS Health Careers

Information about healthcare careers.

 <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk>

Explore:

- Nursing
- Paramedic roles
- Therapy careers
- Entry routes and qualifications

STEM Learning

Information about science, technology, engineering and maths careers.

 <https://www.stem.org.uk>

Good for:

- Exploring science-related pathways
- Understanding future industry skills

In-School Support

Students at Nightingale Community Academy can also access:

- 1:1 Careers Guidance Interviews
- Support with college applications
- CV writing support
- Apprenticeship search support
- Work experience preparation

Please speak to:

- Your Form Tutor
- Your Science Teacher
- The Careers Lead

We are here to help you make informed and confident decisions about your future;