

Discovery Centre

10-year Impact Report



2012

In 2012 the Royal Latin was a Specialist School for science but lacked the facilities to match the label. Through the vision of the school leaders an ambitious plan was developed to build a science centre that would break the mould and provide staff and students with an environmentally and technologically optimised facility to transform teaching and learning.

The laboratories used for teaching were built in 1962 and could not accommodate the growing student population, the number of science classes, and the facilities needed for 21st-century science teaching.

33%

of science lessons were not taught in a lab before the Discovery Centre



6 labs

1200 students

12 new labs

1327
students

£5m

raised

2015-16

The Discovery Centre was opened in the autumn term by Professor Robert Winston.

'Before the DC was built we taught a lot of lessons outside of science labs which resulted in multiple problems with carrying out practicals. Since 2015 we've been able to include more practicals in our lessons which has made the science teaching far more effective and engaging.'

Dr. Rhian Pye, chemistry teacher



Since 2015

120,000

Lessons taught

33%

Increase in students studying STEM at university

23,800

Visitors

3,600

Primary School children attended Science Fairs funded by the Lillingstone Trust



'The Lillingstone Lectures are brilliant - it's amazing to have such a lecture series - so a big 'Thank you' to everyone that organises them!'

RLS parent

'As a Year 7 form tutor, new students are always excited about learning science in the Discovery Centre.'

Joe Woodward, physics teacher

'I have worked in lots of different schools, but the Discovery Centre is by far the best science building I have worked in. It is a great environment for collaborative learning with the best facilities.'

Eddy Verbeek, chemistry teacher

A year in the DC

3,244

experiments

81,100

pairs of goggles used

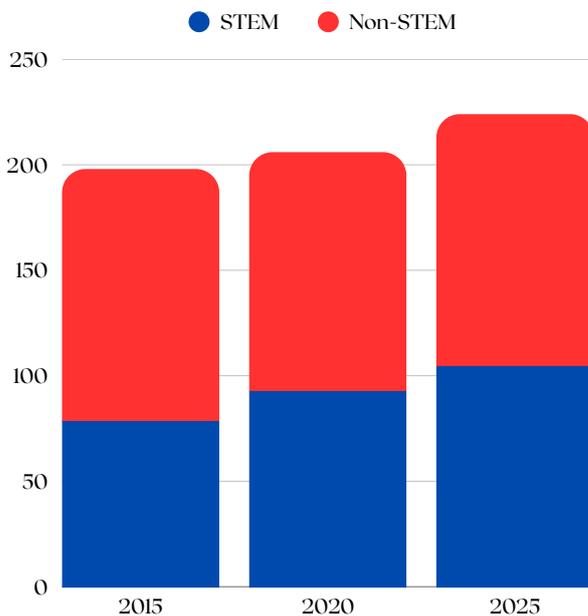
1,175

dissections

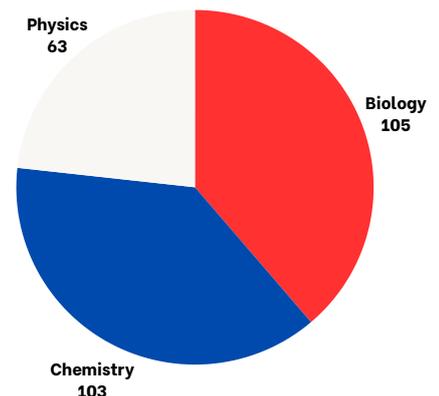
3,600

bowls of washing up by 6 technicians

Y13 studying STEM at university



No. of students studying a science A' Level in 2025



'When I joined as a student in 2012, the science block still had its old-fashioned charm with dark wood furnishings. While the lessons were enjoyable, the aging facilities began to feel limiting. The opening of the Discovery Centre in Year 9 marked a real turning point. You could sense the pride among staff and students. The new space, with its bright lighting and modern equipment, made practical work more engaging and raised the overall quality of our learning.'

Chloe Smith, alumna vet