Meet your Science Team
Kristina Altoft

Hi, I’m Kristina Altoft – Senior Curriculum Manager for Science. My role is to work with schools and trusts to support the teaching of science from age 5 to 19. I work closely with Pearson Edexcel colleagues so that your feedback is translated into great free qualification and paid for resources that address your needs, help you to prepare your students for high stakes exams and provide the very best support. I have 8 years experience working with Pearson Edexcel across qualifications and published resources.

The scientist I would most like to have met would be Marie Curie for her work in chemistry, physics, and medicine, she founded medical research centres that are still used for vital cancer research today. She came from humble beginnings and I greatly admire how hard she fought to pursue a career in science.

Jo Cleary

Hello, I’m Jo Cleary and I’m Head of Science. I have worked for Pearson for 15 years and my role is to support the team in creating qualifications that are clear, accessible and engaging as well as being accompanied by all the support you need to teach them successfully. Please drop me a line if I can help.

A scientist I wish I had met is Galileo. He is often called the ‘father of science’ and had a hand in maths, physics, and astronomy, he was the first to propose that the Earth actually went around the Sun, rather than the Universe revolving around Earth. He has inspired me and many others to remain curious about the world around us.

Irine Muhiuddin

Hi, I’m Irine Muhiuddin and I joined Pearson in 2012 and was appointed Science Subject Advisor in summer 2017. I’m responsible for advising and supporting teachers across a range of Pearson Science qualifications including GCSE, A level and BTEC. I’m the first point of contact for Science teachers and also keep teachers up to date through regular web and email updates. My scientific background is research based, having studied for a PhD in Biochemistry and also undertaking post-doctoral research.

A famous scientist I admire is Alexander Fleming who discovered penicillin in 1928. This led to the development of antibiotics which have saved millions of lives.
Hello I’m Damian Riddle – and I’m Senior Qualifications Manager for A level Sciences, but I also look after International GCSE for UK schools and GCSE Astronomy. I taught Chemistry for 11 years in three different schools in London and Oxfordshire, and was also a Principal Examiner for A level Chemistry. I moved to Pearson in March 2005, and have been Subject Officer for A level Biology, and Chair of International GCSE. I’ve been in my current role since the end of 2009, and have worked on every Science qualification we offer!

There are two scientists I’d loved to have met: Robert Hooke, because he was a great polymath and because it was the name of the first science department I taught in; and Dorothy Hodgkin, because her work still amazes and fascinates me.

Hello, I’m Hannah Cheek, the Senior Qualification Manager for GCSE Sciences. I joined Pearson at the start of 2019 after fifteen years of teaching Science in Secondary Schools and Sixth Form Colleges. I am responsible for ensuring that our GCSE Science qualifications are meeting teachers and learners’ needs and ensuring that all our schools feel fully supported. Rosalind Franklin is my favourite scientist. Her work with X-ray crystallography was a key step in uncovering the structure of DNA. Our understanding of this fundamental chemical of life has led to a wide range of advances in many areas of Science, including Medicine, Forensics, Agriculture and Genetics.

Hi I’m Andy Woods and I’m the Product Manager for GCSE Science at Pearson. My role is to understand and respond to teacher and learner needs and make Pearson Edexcel the most teacher-focused board for GCSE Science.

My background before joining Pearson was in science education. For 18 years, I taught Science and Chemistry in a variety of state comprehensive schools. This has made me acutely aware of the unique challenges science teachers face in UK schools.

The scientist I would most like to meet is William Smith. He is known as the “Father of English Geology”. He created the first Geological map of the UK in the 19th century, virtually single handedly. Literally a ground-breaking achievement!
Hi, I’m **Abi Lawrence** – Product Developer for A level and GCSE Sciences. I taught Chemistry for 4 years before joining Pearson at the end of 2019. My role is to create, develop and improve the resources on offer to schools and teachers. I also work closely with the rest of the Science team to ensure we are meeting the needs of teachers and learners.

The scientist I would have liked to have met is Edward Jenner. He was responsible for the eradication of smallpox through his invention of the vaccine. Due to his discovery, and his willingness to share his research, vaccinations are now widely used as a method to prevent disease and save approximately three million lives every year!

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Hi, I’m **Samad Gunga** and I’m the Head of Science Assessment at Pearson Edexcel. I have worked in the Assessment team for over 9 years. I have the end-to-end responsibility for delivering high-quality assessment materials and accurate and timely outcomes from Pearson to our customers for the above qualifications.

A scientist I wish I had met is Nikola Tesla. There is a debate about whether he was an Engineer or a Scientist, but either way, he is known for designing the alternating-current (AC) electric system, which is the predominant electrical system used across the world today. He also created the “Tesla coil,” which is still used in radio technology.

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Hi, I’m **Henna Nathwani** – Product Manager for GCSE Sciences. I joined the team in 2014 after teaching chemistry in schools in and around London. I first started working on designing the new GCSE Science specification, assessments and supporting materials. I’m passionate about the accessibility of our qualifications and making science fun and exciting for all students. I love talking to teachers and learners to make sure we are doing everything we can to support all things science.

A scientist I wish I could have met would be Kathleen Lonsdale. An amazing woman who worked with X-ray crystallography to explore the structure of organic compounds, and proved the benzene ring was flat. She was also one of the first women to become a fellow of the Royal Society, the first female professor at University College London (my alma mater), and a committed pacifist working towards peace and prison reform.