

May 2022

Dear Families,

RE: Y10 Tier entry for Cycle 3 assessments

In Science, students are making great progress with teachers commenting on their hard work, grit, and determination in lessons.

At KS4 students study the AQA exam board specification for Science. To help them better understand the pathway I have outlined the key comparisons between Triple Science and Combined Science.

Comparisons	Triple	Combined Science
Number of GCSEs	3	2
Number of lessons per week	6	6
Number of exams	6 – each exam is 100 marks	6 – each exam is 70 marks
Length of exams	1 Hour 45 minutes	1 Hour 15 minutes
Maximum Grade	9-9-9	Combined Higher: 9-9 Combined Foundation: 5-5
Content	Extra content: Biology 27 lessons Chemistry 30 lessons Physics 28 lessons	

For Cycle 3 assessments your child has been selected for the tier entry:

- Triple
- Combined Higher
- Combined Foundation

This decision has been based on Cycle 1 data, assessments throughout the year and communication with the Science teachers regarding attitude to learning. I would like to make you aware that we will be using the data from the Cycle 3 assessments to reset students into Science ability groups for the next academic year. This will also shape the tier entry to which students will be entered for in Mock 1 Year 11. However I must reiterate that this will be reviewed continuously in consultation with class teachers and changes to tiers will be made in the best interest of the student and the change will be communicated with yourself.

We feel for those students who struggle with the additional content in Triple it is in their best interest to receive 2 higher grades by studying Combined Higher rather than 3 lower grades by continuing to study Triple Science. At this point it is important to reiterate a statement by Dixons 6th form:

*Moving to combined is fine if they are entered for the higher tier. **We would much prefer students to have two very good GCSEs from the combined paper rather than worse grades from triple science. If they achieve the entry requirements, they will secure a place on the course. Please reassure students of this on our behalf.***

It is vital that students reflect upon their learning and how they can close gaps so that they can maximise their progress. Students have been given copies of revision material in lesson and via email. To help students revise we look at different revision techniques and how these can be used. Below are a few that help with science revision:



- Mind maps
- Key words and definitions
- Quizzing: Read – Cover – Write – Check
- Flash cards
- Select and elect: Summarise information into as few words as possible
- Topic ranking

Additionally to further enhance the use of time and revision resources we suggest that students set themselves extra questions on Educake our online science homework platform to aid their revision.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact myself.

Kind Regards,



Ms Khadim
 Head of Science
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REPLY SLIP

I understand my child will be entered for the tier entry:

- Triple
- Combined Higher
- Combined Foundation

For the upcoming Cycle 3 assessments in the summer term. Data collected from the Cycle 3 assessment will also shape the tier entry to which my child will be entered for in Mock 1 Year 11.

Signed (parent/carer): Date.....

*****Please return this reply slip to your Science teacher no later than 25th May 2022*****