

May 2022

Dear Families,

### RE: Y9 into Y10 Science Cycle 3 assessments and sets

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

At KS4 (year 9 onwards) students study the AQA exam board specification for Science. To help 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	5	5
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	<b>Extra content:</b> Biology 27 lessons Chemistry 30 lessons Physics 28 lessons	

Currently students have been set according to Maths and English. With cycle 3 assessments fast approaching I would like to make you aware that we will be using the data from these assessments to reset students in Science into ability groups for the next academic year. This will also shape the tier entry to which students will potentially be entered for: Triple, Combined Higher or Combined Foundation. 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 it is in their best interest to receive 2 higher grades by studying Combined Higher rather than 3 lower grades by studying Triple Science. At this point it is important to reiterate a statement by Dixons 6<sup>th</sup> 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,



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