

January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re. Science GCSEs

You may already be aware that Year 9, in Science, is a transition year into GCSE courses, during which students are taught common GCSE content. By February half term, all students will be at the same point in terms of curriculum coverage and I am writing to let you know we intend readjusting teaching groups at this time, to most effectively prepare students for Key Stage 4.

There are 3 main GCSE pathways and more detail will be given about these at the Year 9 Options Evening on 6th February:

1. Triple Science (3 GCSEs);
2. Trilogy combine Science – Higher Tier (2 GCSEs);
3. Trilogy Combined Science – Foundation Tier (2 GCSEs).

No decisions about KS4 pathways have been made at this stage. These will be made at the end of the year, based primarily on students' final Year 9 pathway assessments in term 6. Parents will be informed of students' initial Science pathways at the start of Year 10.

At this stage, I wanted to provide you with a little more information about the selection process for Triple Science. A maximum of 32 students can be accommodated in one Triple Science group. Towards the end of Year 9, 40 students and parents will be offered the opportunity to express whether they would like to take Triple Science – this number includes 8 extra, in the event of some declining the invitation. Students will then be selected based on a combination of:

- Their final Y9 Pathway Assessment
- Average score of their end of unit Y9 tests
- Science Effort scores on Y9 reports 1-4
- Science Homework scores on Y9 reports 1-4
- Not having 'progress' concerns on their Year 9 reports

Yours faithfully,



Mr O Hynes
Head of Science