



20 July 2023

Dear Families

I am writing to you with regards to the routes that can be taken in science in year 11. We will run the following options:

**Separate Sciences GCSE's (triple):** A separate GCSE will be taken in each of biology, chemistry and physics. This is the most academically demanding course, suitable for students likely to achieve grades 7-9. No extra time in class is available to cover the additional work and as such the pace is faster and more homework is set. All work is assessed in terminal exams at the end of year 11.

**GCSE Combined Science:** Two GCSEs which combine biology, chemistry and physics, leading to a double award in science. The majority of students follow this course, as it is suitable for all students including those who wish to achieve up to grade 9 without the extra work and pace required for triple science. There will be two grades awarded for this course so it is possible to attain up to two grade 9's. **This route still allows progression to A-Level sciences.**

As you will be aware the year 10 mocks have been taken very late in the term and this means that the analysis of the grades is much later. In order for us to make a proper assessment of the best route for your child we won't have finalised our decisions until tomorrow.

I will be therefore communicating our recommended route to the students at the beginning of next academic year. We understand that some changes may need to take place in the first week and we will enable this to happen as smoothly as possible. If the decision is not the one they are expecting (either way around – some students do not want the stress of the extra study even though we would deem them academically capable of completing the triple course) please do be reassured that we will sort out all queries in September.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Stromfield  
Curriculum Leader of Science

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