

To : Parents/ Carers Year 11 Science

Our Ref : 87555549(C)

14 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: GCSE Science

As pupils start Year 11 and begin their final year of study before their GCSE examinations, I thought it would be a useful opportunity to further explain the structure of GCSE Science and the pathways that we have for GCSE Science at South Hunsley.

Structure of GCSE Trilogy Combined Science Examinations

Your child is currently studying for the GCSE Trilogy Combined Science, following the [AQA specification](#). Pupils study and will be examined on all three sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). Throughout Year 11, your child will have three science teachers, each covering one of the sciences in their lessons. At the end of the course, pupils will sit a total of six external examinations, 1 hour 15 minutes in length, for the qualification (this is two exams in each of the sciences). The scores from each paper get combined to give pupils an overall grade for GCSE Trilogy Combined Science, which is equivalent to two GCSEs. Pupils can be entered for either the Higher Tier or Foundation Tier for their science GCSE examinations (the tier of entry has to be the same across all six papers). The grades that pupils can be awarded are summarised in the table below:

Tier of Entry	Grades Available																	
Trilogy Combined Science Foundation	11	21	22	32	33	43	44	45	55									
Trilogy Combined Science Higher						43	44	45	55	65	66	76	77	87	88	98	99	

When deciding on the most appropriate tier of entry for pupils, we follow AQA's advice that any pupil who is estimated to achieve a grade 55 or below should be entered for the foundation tier, whilst any pupil estimated to achieve a grade 65 or above should be entered for the higher tier.

Science Groups

Last academic year in Science, we moved away from having distinct ability sets to a pathway approach, where we have multiple groups, working at the same level, within one pathway. This means that we can group pupils in classes based on their entry arrangements for their GCSE examinations and give them the most appropriate support throughout Year 11. This also means that the class code that pupils are given is purely for administration purposes and does not define a certain set for pupils.

Although pupils have been placed on a pathway at the start of Year 11, this will be reviewed by their teachers following assessments and mock examinations during the year to ensure that pupils are entered for the most appropriate pathway in their final examinations, as final entry decisions are not made until the start of the Spring Term.

The pathways and their associated classes are summarised in the table below:

Science Pathway	Associated Classes
Separate Sciences Pathway <i>This is for pupils who have chosen to study separate sciences in the Year 9 Options Process only</i>	11a/S1 (11W/Tr1); 11a/S2 (11X/Tr1); 11b/S1 (11Y/Tr1); 11b/S2 (11Z/Tr1)
Trilogy Combined Science Higher Pathway	11a/S3, 11a/S4, 11a/S5, 11b/S3, 11b/S4, 11b/S5
Trilogy Combined Science Foundation Pathway	11a/S6, 11a/S7, 11a/S8, 11b/S6, 11b/S7

Initially, your child will be following the Trilogy Combined Science **Higher Pathway**.

Additional Revision Resources

We have a wide range of revision resources available to pupils and links to these will be shared through Microsoft Teams. We also have the option to purchase CGP revision guides, which pupils may find useful in preparation for their exams. As a school, we are able to offer these at a discounted price. Revision guides will be available to purchase through ParentMail and should be ordered before Friday 20 October 2023, after this date an order will be placed with the suppliers. Please note, if you have previously purchased revision guides for your child, then these are the same revision guides available.

Yours faithfully



Callum Holness
Director of Science