

JTS/PDS/glm

23 September 2009

Dear Parent / Carer

Year 10 GCSE Science

As your son is embarking on his GCSE Science course, I feel that it is important to communicate how your son will study Science in the next two years.

Triple Science pupils will study the three Science subjects Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately. The two year course consists of Core, Additional and Extension modules and pupils will gain three Science GCSEs.

Most boys will study Double Science which consists of Core Science modules in Year 10. In Year 11 they will either study Additional Science or Additional Applied Science. Additional Science covers Biology, Chemistry and Physics modules which are also studied by Triple Science candidates. The Additional Applied Course is portfolio-based with modules on Science in the Work Place, Food Science, Forensic Science and Sports Science. An outline of module content is supplied.

For Triple and Additional Science there is no longer a coursework requirement in Science. The centre-assessed element replacing it is composed of a practical investigation followed by an examination based on experimental data.

Whichever pathway your son follows he will be offered the opportunity to perform to the best of his ability. All of the courses enable pupils to gain the full range of grades from A*-G. In order to help you support your son an outline of module content is supplied with the examination dates for this year, excluding the summer series as these dates have not yet been published.

The Course

Core science is examined using multiple choice objective tests and all boys will sit these examinations during Year 10.

The Additional modules will be examined in Year 11, with the Triple Science candidates sitting the examination in January and Additional Science candidates in June. Examinations for the extension modules in Triple Science

also take place in June. Both the Additional and Extension module examinations are long-answer papers.

The Centre Assessed Units (ISAs) assess pupils understanding of 'How Science Works' with reference to ideas from specific modules. Pupils will have the opportunity for thorough preparation in lessons prior to the examinations.

The Additional Applied course is compromised of portfolio work (60%) and a long-answer paper (40%).

I have outlined below the dates for examinations for the academic year 2009/2010.

Equipment

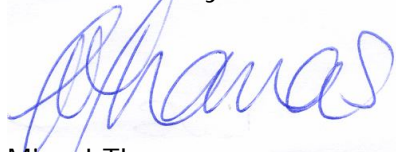
To ensure your son has every chance of the success he deserves, may I please remind you that the following equipment must be brought to every lesson and examination: pen, spare pen, pencil, ruler, eraser and a calculator.

Extra support

I would also like to remind you that we do hold a regular Science Clinic on Wednesdays. A member of the Science staff will normally be available to assist with any homework, revision or extra tuition. Occasionally whole school meetings may be called on this day so no staff members are available. A timetable of revision classes will also be available in preparation for all examinations.

Please contact me if there is anything further you wish to discuss.

Yours faithfully,



Miss J Thomas
Subject Leader for Science.