

JTS/PDS/glm

23 September 2009

Dear Parent / Carer

Year 11 GCSE Science

As your son is starting his final year, I feel that it is important to communicate how your son will study GCSE Science in Year 11.

Most boys are studying Double Science which is composed of Core and Additional Science modules. Some boys will be studying Triple Science which is composed of Core, Additional and Extension modules. There are also pupils studying Additional Applied Science for the first time this year. This is a portfolio based course with modules on Science in the Work Place, Food Science, Forensic Science and Sports Science. An outline of module content is supplied.

There is no longer any coursework requirement in Core, Additional or Triple Science. The centre assessed element which replaces 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 have completed these examinations during the previous year.

The Additional Science modules will be examined in Year 11, with the Triple Science candidates sitting the examination in January and Double Science candidates in June. Examinations of the extension modules for Triple Science also take place in June. Both the Additional and Extension module examinations are long-answer papers. The Additional Applied course is compromised of portfolio work (60%) and a long answer paper (40%) in June.

The Centre Assessed Units (ISAs) assess pupil 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. 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 every Wednesday. 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.