

07/07/10

Dear Parent/ Carer,

**Re: Science courses offered at Fulford for students in year 11**

Prior to the year 10 parent's evening I wrote explaining the range of options available for students going into year 11. These include:

- **Triple Science**. Sets A-C will embark on this route which leads to 3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The unit 1a and 1b grades from year 10 (counting for 25% of the overall mark) are combined with a unit 2 exam (January – 25%), unit 3 (June – 25%) and a practical investigation (25%) for the overall grades. There is no extra time for this route and so considerable demand is placed on the students. This course is suitable for students considering taking A-levels in Science and is graded from A\*-U.
- **Additional Science**. Students will obtain a GCSE in Core Science (from year 10) and another GCSE in Additional Science from year 11. Both Core and Additional Science cover aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This course is suitable for students considering taking A-levels in Science and is graded from A\*-U.
- **Additional Applied Science**. Students will obtain a GCSE in Core Science (from year 10) and another GCSE in Applied Science from year 11. 60% of the mark in Applied Science comes from portfolio based work which is vocational in nature, with trips to the Deep and the Fire Service taking place, for example. This course is aimed at students who have achieved a minimum grade of a C from year 10. It is not suitable for students considering taking the traditional A-level Science options - it is graded from A\*-U.

- BTEC First Level 2 Certificate in Applied Science. Students will obtain a GCSE in Core Science (from year 10) and a BTEC certificate in Applied Science from year 11. This practically orientated course will give students the chance to achieve the equivalent to 2 C grades at GCSE level in 1 year. The course is focussed on contemporary science (e.g. Forensics) and is 100% continuous assessment (with no external exam). The later point highlights the importance of an excellent attendance record.

In order for students to maximise their achievement it is obviously important that they embark on an appropriate course. This has formed the basis of a discussion at Parent's evening and additionally in school with students in Science lessons. I have also presented the above information to students through an assembly.

The below represents the outcome of the above process in terms of which option your child will be taking next year. If you do have any questions about this please contact me at school.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Bailey (Head of Science)

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Year 11 Science Option:

- Triple Science.
- Additional Science.
- Additional Applied Science.
- BTEC First Level 2 Certificate in Applied Science

Signed (teacher): \_\_\_\_\_