



Dear Parent/ Carer,

15/7/2014

Re: Year 9 Science Curriculum

Earlier in the term I wrote to outline the structure of the year 9 Science curriculum. I explained that we run two parallel courses in order to provide a curriculum that is both appropriate and challenging for all of our students:

- 5 groups of students will cover a range of topics at KS3 level. These students will start studying GCSE Science at the beginning of the summer term and go on to take 2 GCSEs in 'Core' followed by 'Additional' Science (covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics).
- 3 groups will begin working on GCSE Sciences at the start of year 9. As a result of starting their GCSE Science course early these students may go on to take 3 GCSEs in Science at the end of year 11 (separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

As we reach the close of year 8, the Science department carefully considered the assessment information we have obtained through the course of the year. We have considered each student individually with a rounded view being formed as to the route that is likely to offer them the most successful route in Science. Please find our recommendation below. There is a degree of flexibility in the curriculum in year 9 so if later assessments were to indicate students would benefit through changing courses this is possible.

As explained in my earlier letter, it is important to remember that taking three GCSEs in Science (in the time allocation for two) has both advantages and disadvantages. The large number of exams at the end of year 11 and the pace of the course make it suitable for students with a certain type of learning style. Most students are best served by aiming for top grades in Core and Additional Science; we are fully expecting excellent results for our current cohort of students taking these awards.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going engagement in your child's Science education - it makes a huge difference. If you have any questions about this matter you are welcome to contact me at school or via e-mail (baileys@fulford.york.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Bailey (Curriculum Leader, Science)

Name of student: _____

Year 9 Group: Start Core/ Additional Science in year 10.

Start Triple Science in year 9

