

Fulford School

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Dear Parent/ Carer,

**Re: Science courses in year 10**

I am writing to ensure that you are fully informed about the structure of the KS4 curriculum in Science at Fulford. In year 10/11 we run two parallel courses in order to provide a curriculum that proves inspiring, challenging and successful for all of our students.

There will be 9 teaching groups of students and out of these:

* 6 groups will study Combined Science. Biology, Chemistry and Physics exams will take place at the end of year 11 and students will achieve two GCSEs in Combined Science (grades 9-1).
* 3 groups will begin working on Separate Science qualifications, possibly leading to three GCSEs (separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, again graded 9-1). Out of the three groups it is usual for around twenty students to move across to Combined Science through the course of KS4.

The national norm is that students take 2 GCSEs in Science and in some schools this is the only route that is available. As such, this is suitable preparation for all A-levels or University courses, including those in Science.

In previous years students have commenced either Combined or Triple Science courses from the start of year 10. Due to the disruption caused by COVID this year, I have decided to delay this decision until January of year 10. We will use the performance of students in the autumn term together with reference to information from KS3 to help inform this process.

You can be assured that we are deeply committed to doing the right thing for all our students. At this point in time, I believe families will be best served by all students continuing to study all of the relevant material for both courses. I am confident that as a department and as a school we are very well placed to help our students achieve excellence. I will be in touch again about this matter in the first half term next year to ensure you are fully kept informed.

I always close my communications by thanking families for their ongoing support, emphasising the huge difference that this makes. With our shared journey through the past year I would especially like to underscore this message and thank you for everything you are doing!

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Bailey, Science Curriculum Leader, Fulford School



The South York Multi-Academy Trust.

Registered address: Fulfordgate, Heslington Lane, Fulford, York YO10 4FY.

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