



# Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy



22 September 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

I am writing to inform you of important information regarding your son's/daughter's Science education. For the first few weeks the children have been finishing off units of work from KS3, they will soon move on to a unit of work called GCSE transition. Students will be developing their working scientifically, mathematical, practical and investigative skills in preparation for GCSE work.

All Year 9 students will start to study the GCSE content after October half-term. We will be working towards AQA GCSE Science qualifications. For more details on each of the GCSEs we offer including specification and assessment details, please use the links below.

**GCSE Biology:** <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461>

**GCSE Chemistry:** <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462>

**GCSE Physics:** <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463>

**GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy:**

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>

Most Year 9 students are studying GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy. It is worth two GCSEs. Students will be awarded with GCSE numbers such as 9,9; 9,8; 7,6 etc. Students will be taught topics of Biology, Chemistry and Physics by two Science teachers and will have one Science lesson every day. Alternatively, your child may have opted to study separate Sciences. They will be awarded with three separate GCSE grades, have three specialist Science teachers and seven lessons a week.

All qualifications are linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course; there is no opportunity to re-sit exams. There is no coursework, however, all students will have to carry out numerous required practicals over the next three years, the knowledge of which will be tested in the final examinations.

### **Formative assessment and homework**

Your child's Science teachers will use a range of assessment for learning techniques to monitor their progress both informally in class, through set homework tasks and through the use of summative assessments. They will be given a varied diet of Science homework tasks. Examples of Science homework may include questions to support classwork, spellings, revision, completing investigation reports, research or an extension piece of literacy/maths/creative work. Students will also regularly, be set Science homework to complete online at [www.kerboodle.com](http://www.kerboodle.com) and [www.educake.com](http://www.educake.com). Any homework that is set will be recorded on SIMS which can be monitored via the SIMS parents/pupil app.

It is the Science department policy not to mark student's classwork. Homework will usually be peer or self-assessed in class. Students will receive verbal feedback on their homework where appropriate. Students will be given a minimum of three days to complete Science homework, although usually a week will be given.

Highfield Road, Croston, Leyland, Lancashire PR26 9HH

**Tel:** 01772 600 349 or 600 972 **Fax:** 01772 601 320

**email:** [office@bishopr.co.uk](mailto:office@bishopr.co.uk) **website:** [www.bishopr.co.uk](http://www.bishopr.co.uk)

**Company Number:** 7672781 **VAT Registration Number:** 120 1290 77

**Headteacher:** Mr P Cowley

Continued/...

Your child's progress in Science will be assessed regularly throughout Key Stage 4 with the use of written assessments for each GCSE topic based on past GCSE examination questions. Students will be notified of assessments by being set revision as a homework on SIMS. Skills are also assessed at KS4 using required practicals. These summative assessments and required practicals will be teacher assessed and students can expect to receive written feedback for this work. All assessed work is kept in folders in the Science department, however we will get students to take an assessment home for parents/guardians to view, sign and see agreed targets for progression.

### **Kerboodle**

An online learning platform called Kerboodle is used in Science- [www.kerboodle.com](http://www.kerboodle.com). Kerboodle is an exciting KS4 Science course designed to spark curiosity in Science and support students on their learning journey through KS4 to GCSE success. Through kerboodle all students have been given access to an online textbook and digital learning resources to support home learning.

If your child has been set a task by their teacher they will receive a notification in the message centre at the top of the page with the information. The task will appear in the Assessment tab within their course on Kerboodle. It may be an interactive activity that will be marked automatically by Kerboodle, or a worksheet or task that needs to be downloaded, completed and either re-uploaded or turned in by hand. Once the work has been marked, your child will be able to view their results in the Markbook module. They will also be able to view feedback on their work. Your child will also be able to access all of the teaching materials on Kerboodle in the Lessons and Resources modules to consolidate their learning.

### **Educake**

Educake is another online learning platform used by the Science department to provide low stakes retrieval style quizzing. An Educake quiz may be set by a teacher as a homework but students can also set themselves quizzes and practice the retrieval of knowledge. It also has online study guides to accompany set quizzes. Your child has been given an Educake account. It can be accessed at <https://www.educake.co.uk/>

### **Microsoft Teams**

Every child is a member of two or three Science class teams on Microsoft Teams; one for each teacher. This is used by Science teachers to communicate with their students. Students can use the chat function to privately message their teacher or post a question for the whole class to see. Files can also be shared here and assignments set should the need for home schooling be needed again!

Given the current uncertain times we find ourselves in, please can I ask that your child checks they can log-on to these online resources as soon as possible? If they are having issues logging on to kerboodle or Educake please ask them to raise it with their Science class teacher in the first instance.

Finally, it is very important that students keep all their GCSE work organised ready for exam preparation. They will need three A4 lever arch folders with file dividers to store their GCSE work at home over the next three years; one each for biology, chemistry and physics. They also need an A4 ringer binder folder to bring their current units of work into school each day.

I look forward to working with you over the next three years and seeing your child develop their knowledge, skills and passion for Science. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Petts  
Curriculum Leader, Science