

# GCSE Sciences

How can we help your child succeed?

# AQA science courses and your child

- In year 10 all students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics, with 3 specialist teachers for a total of 12 hours a fortnight.
- Some students will complete a dual award called GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy, and some will complete separate qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- All of the above courses follow the AQA Science syllabus.
- We choose the most appropriate course for your child at the end of year 9, checking again that this is still the best for them just before the October holiday. Ensuring that students are on the right pathway for them and thus giving them the best chance of achieving higher qualifications is really important.

# AQA science courses and your child

## **COMBINED SCIENCE: TRILOGY**

In completing Combined Science: Trilogy students cover many of the same units of work as those on the separate science courses. Students will cover the 3 science disciplines in the traditional fashion, with this course taking a logical and coherent journey through both old and new GCSE material. Students can still access AS and A2 courses from Combined Science: Trilogy.

## **BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS**

In completing the separate sciences students will cover more content throughout the course, than GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy. These courses provide thorough preparation for AS and A2.

# The units of study

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Cell Biology	Atomic structure and the periodic table	Forces
Organisation	Bonding, structure and the properties of matter	Energy
Infection and response	Quantitative chemistry	Waves
Bioenergetics	Chemical changes	Electricity
Homeostasis and response	Energy changes	Magnetism and electromagnetism
Inheritance, variation and evolution	The rate and extent of chemical change	Particle model of matter
Ecology	Organic chemistry	Atomic structure
	Chemical analysis	
	Chemistry of the atmosphere	
	Using resources	

# Controlled Assessment?????

Controlled assessment has been replaced with a set of required practical activities.

Students will complete 8 practicals for Biology Chemistry and Physics and 16 for Combined Science: Trilogy.

Students will then be assessed on their practical skills in their exams with at least 15% of the marks coming from questions related to practicals that they have completed in class.

**Attendance to these lessons in particular is therefore of great importance.**

# Assessments in AQA Science

Course	Assessments			
Trilogy	6 exams, 2 for each subject Papers are 1 hour 15 minutes each Each paper has 70 marks F and H tier (but students must be entered for the same tier) Question types will include: multiple choice, structured closed, short answer and open response			
Separate Science	6 exams, 2 for each subject Papers are 1 hour 45 minutes each Each paper has 100 marks F and H tier (but students must be entered for the same tier) Question types will include: multiple choice, structured closed, short answer and open response			
*Maths content	Biology 10%	Chemistry 20%	Physics 30%	Trilogy 20%

# Our expectations of your child

There is no escaping the fact that all science courses nationally have become harder this year and we need your child's commitment in order for them to do well.

- Attendance has to be good – if not, a lot will be missed in a short space of time.
  - Effort must be consistently high.
- Behaviour must allow there to be a good working atmosphere in the room for effective learning to take place.
  - Independent learning will be essential.

# Our expectations of your child

It will not be enough for your child to simply learn what their teacher tells them in class.

They must then learn to apply their knowledge and understanding.....their teacher will help them to do this.

Assessment objective set by the exam board	Example	Weighting in exams
Knowledge and understanding	Simple recall of facts	40%
Application of knowledge	Applying and making sense of working scientifically in new situations	40%
Analysis of information	Interpretation and evaluation of data Including making judgements and drawing conclusions	20%



# How you can help

- Make sure you know their exam dates once timetables are published.
  - Help your child plan time for revision.
  - Help them have a quiet space and time for revision and practice.
- Help them with a positive atmosphere. It is a stressful time for them and some struggle with motivation through fear of not doing well.
- Contact us early if you see signs of low motivation or lack of willingness to revise at home. We can help.

# What else is out there?

- Wednesday night drop in (106, 201, 204, 206 in college)
- Revision guides/workbooks (£5.50 or £4 from prep room)
- Kerboodle online homeworks ([www.kerboodle.com](http://www.kerboodle.com))
- GCSE Bitesize (BBC website)  
(<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zrkw2hv>)
- SAM learning ([www.samlearning.com](http://www.samlearning.com)) available until Easter?
- GCSE pod?