



THE WESTLEIGH SCHOOL

Aspiring & Achieving Together

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 GCSE Science – Supporting Your Child to Excel

As we begin this important year for our Year 11 students, I wanted to take the opportunity to explain how we, as a Science Department, are helping students to achieve their very best in GCSE Science.

I am proud of the commitment shown by our students and staff, and our 2026 results provide some excellent successes to celebrate. 60% of students achieved grades 9–7 in Biology, compared with 44.4% nationally, and our students achieved 25 Grade 9s across Science.

We want to build on this success with our current Year 11 students.

GCSE Examination Arrangements

Students will follow either AQA Combined Science: Trilogy or AQA Separate Sciences (Triple Science).

Combined Science: Trilogy

Combined Science is worth two GCSEs. Students sit six examination papers:

- Biology Paper 1 – 70 marks
- Biology Paper 2 – 70 marks
- Chemistry Paper 1 – 70 marks
- Chemistry Paper 2 – 70 marks
- Physics Paper 1 – 70 marks
- Physics Paper 2 – 70 marks

Separate Sciences: Triple Science

Students studying Triple Science sit two papers in each science:

- Biology – Paper 1: 100 marks; Paper 2: 100 marks
- Chemistry – Paper 1: 100 marks; Paper 2: 100 marks
- Physics – Paper 1: 100 marks; Paper 2: 100 marks

Students studying Triple Science are therefore working towards three separate GCSE qualifications.

Exam Practice in Every Lesson

One of the most important aspects of our approach is that examination preparation does not begin at the end of Year 11 — it happens in every lesson.

Past-paper and examination-style questions are incorporated into lessons so that students regularly practise applying their scientific knowledge. Students are asked to interpret information, complete calculations, explain concepts and apply their understanding to

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unfamiliar situations.

These questions are live marked in lessons, giving students immediate feedback. Students are then expected to respond to that feedback, correct their mistakes and improve their answers.

Required Practicals and Working Scientifically

The required practicals are an important part of the GCSE Science examinations, so practical knowledge and skills are embedded throughout our teaching. All students complete the required practicals during science lessons.

Monday Intervention – 3:00–4:00pm

Our Monday intervention session runs from 3:00–4:00pm and provides an additional opportunity for students to work with a science teacher.

Intervention allows us to identify specific areas for development, address misconceptions, revisit challenging content and provide additional examination practice.

Sparx Science Homework

We are very proud of the Sparx Science homework system we have established.

Homework is set weekly and is designed to consolidate learning from lessons and strengthen students' long-term recall. Consistent independent practice is an important part of preparing successfully for GCSE examinations.

We also want to recognise students who demonstrate commitment to their independent learning.

Sparx Rewards

Every week, students finishing 1st, 2nd or 3rd on their class leaderboard receive a sweet treat.

- Christmas – class competition and film reward
- Valentine's – special incentive
- Easter – reward with a visit from the ice cream van

Revision Support

Every Year 11 class has a Science Revision Folder on Showbie, where class teachers regularly add revision resources and materials.

Paper-based revision resources are also available on request. Please contact your child's Science teacher if you feel they would benefit from these.



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We encourage students to revise little and often, regularly revisiting previously taught content rather than waiting until immediately before an examination.

Recommended Revision Guides

For students who would like an additional revision resource, we recommend the Collins AQA GCSE All-in-One Revision and Practice books. Please see the ISBN numbers below

Combined Science Higher Tier: ISBN 978-0-00-816086-9

Combined Science Foundation Tier: ISBN 978-0-00-816085-2

Triple Science Biology: ISBN 978-0-00-816074-6

Triple Science Chemistry: ISBN 978-0-00-816075-3

Triple Science Physics: ISBN 978-0-00-816073-9

How You Can Support Your Child

- Encourage them to complete their weekly Sparx Science homework.
- Encourage regular use of the Showbie revision folder.
- Ask them to explain what they have learned rather than simply rereading notes.
- Encourage them to act on teacher feedback and correct mistakes.
- Support attendance at Monday intervention when invited.
- Encourage short, regular revision sessions.
- Celebrate effort, improvement and consistency.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Fay Lord-Calland
Head of Science