

19th March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, pupils in Year 10 are studying one of two Science courses; the Triple Award (3 separate Sciences) or the Trilogy Combined Science Award (a combined Science course). As we approach the end of Year 10, decisions will be made as to whether these courses are still the correct pathway for your son/daughter.

Pupils who are currently studying Separate Science Triple Award should be aware that their ability to continue with this course is dependent upon them achieving a minimum required level of attainment in all three disciplines. This will be determined by their performance in the Trinity Term examinations, where a Grade 7 or above would enable them to continue on their present course. Due to the increased demand and work load in Year 11 in the Triple Award courses, and to allow pupils to fulfil their potential in the Science subjects, those who are unable to meet this standard will transfer onto the Combined Science Trilogy Course. This will still enable them to achieve two Science GCSE grades, up to a Grade 9, and will not prevent them from studying Science A levels.

Pupils who are currently studying the Trilogy Combined Science course will also be reviewed following the Trinity term examinations. Those who achieve a Grade 4 or below will study the Foundation Tier in Year 11 and will be then entered for the Foundation Tier in Summer 2019, which will increase their likelihood of achieving a Grade 5. The Foundation syllabus offers more accessible questions and the content is reduced, allowing pupils who are struggling with the demands of Higher Tier more success. The Foundation Tier does however limit the Grade to a 5 which is the equivalent of a low B grade.

There is currently no limit regarding the number of pupils studying each course, and indeed it may be the case that we find there is very little change from this year. The number of groups will be decided after the Trinity term examinations to allow the best possible fit using our available resources. However, we did want to take this opportunity to inform you of the process that will take place in order that you can support your son/daughter at home.

Please do not hesitate to contact us further if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. P. Wild.

Mrs PB Wild

Z Saunders

Dr ZM Saunders