

19 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Y10 Separate Science course - Information regarding selection - April 2024**

We wrote to you in September regarding the assessments taking place in Science this year. We will be using these assessments, teacher's recommendations and professional judgement to decide who should be offered the Separate Science GCSE course (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) that starts in Year 10. We will be running a class of up to 32 pupils on each side of the timetable next year.

There are two main Science assessments that are taking place in year 9. The first assessment was in February 2024.

The second assessment is in the week beginning 20 May 2024. Please note the date for this second Science assessment is different to the other Y9 assessments that are scheduled to take place in June. This will cover the following topics that are being covered in the spring term. The topics are B2 (Organisation), C8 (Chemical analysis), C9 (Chemistry of the atmosphere) and P3 (Particle model of matter).

Students do have access to a range of revision resources that may be useful to help them prepare for the Science assessments. These can be found on google drive in the folder 'Science students'.

We will send out invitations to students we feel will be most suitable for following the Separate Sciences as soon as possible after the second assessment has taken place. Parental responses to this offer will need to be prompt as we have a short turnaround time to confirm classes starting in September 2024.

As a reminder our selection process for Separate Science will be based on several aspects:

- KS4 data
- pupils' motivation and commitment
- our own professional judgement

There are, however, several things that need to be considered about the Separate Science Course. Firstly, there will be more content to cover in the time so the lesson pace would be increased and the quantity of work required outside of the lessons would be greater. This means that your child needs to be committed to and prepared to undertake the extra work involved. Secondly, the pathway taken through Year 10/11 will be different to the rest of the year group. This means that it would not be possible to move to combined Science if your child changes their mind about taking the Separate Sciences after initially opting in.

The benefits to the Separate Science course are that the students obtain an extra GCSE (compared to combined science) and there is more exposure to some of the more conceptually challenging topics.

Although we are unable to accommodate all the students on the Separate Science pathway (triple) both triple and combined Science qualifications enable students to study A level Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

Thank you for your understanding and support. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions or queries.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr L Hearnden**  
**Director of Science**



**Mr S Carter**  
**Key Stage 4 Coordinator Science**