



**SUBJECT:** GCSE Combined Science

**YEAR:** 10 & 11

**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT:** Dr H Craig

**GROUPING POLICY:** Set by ability

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

**ASSESSMENT:** 100% External Examination

**Link to Specification:**

Students follow the AQA GCSE Science Trilogy course. This is examined at the end of Year 11.

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

**COURSE CONTENT**

**What will my child learn?**

In Year 10 students will study the first half of the GCSE course, covering all three areas of Science. They will have two teachers, a main teacher who will teach two of the science subjects, and a second teacher who will teach the third science subject throughout the year. The topics studied will be as follows:

**Biology**

1. **Cell biology:** what are cells, what are they made of and how do they divide?
2. **Organisation:** how are cells organised into structures such as the heart?
3. **Infection and response:** how do bacteria and viruses cause disease?
4. **Bioenergetics:** students will study how plants and animals generate energy.

**Chemistry**

1. **Atomic structure and the periodic table:** what is the structure of an atom and how was this discovered?
2. **Bonding, structure and the properties of matter:** how are atoms arranged into the molecules that make up the world around us?
3. **Quantitative chemistry:** how can chemists predict how much of a substance they will make?
4. **Chemical changes:** students will learn about different types of chemical reactions.
5. **Energy changes:** students will learn about how and why chemical reactions happen; why does burning a fuel create heat, for example?

**Physics**

1. **Energy:** what is energy? How and why is it transferred?
2. **Electricity:** how do electrical circuits behave? How is electricity generated?
3. **The particle model of matter:** how do atoms and molecules behave in solids, liquids and gases? What happens when their temperature changes?
4. **Atomic structure:** everything in the universe is made of atoms; students will learn about their structure and how they were discovered.

In Year 11, students study the following topic areas:

**Biology** - Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, Variation and evolution and Ecology.





**Chemistry** - The rate and extent of chemical change, Organic chemistry, Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere, Using resources.

**Physics** – Forces, Waves, Magnetism and electromagnetism.

### **What will homework look like?**

Students will have one homework per week from their main teacher and one homework per fortnight from their second teacher.

### **What enrichment opportunities are available?**

Appropriate enrichment opportunities will be arranged and communicated to students as the course progresses.

## **ASSESSMENT**

### **How will my child's work be assessed?**

Students will be assessed formally by each teacher in every reporting cycle; the test will be common to the whole cohort. Students will be given 1-9 grades for these tests. We will also use mathematical techniques to track students' progress against prior attainment. All of those who we judge not to be progressing as we expect will be invited to attend a retest in the first instance, and then considered for additional support. In addition, students' progress will be assessed continuously through their classwork, homework and smaller in-class tests.

Practical skills will be developed through 'required practicals' set by the exam board. These are examined formally in the written examinations at the end of Year 11, however, students will need to have experienced the class practicals in order to answer the questions. Students who miss the practicals will be asked to catch up, and invited for additional support after school if they do not or cannot do this themselves.

Examinations will be at the end of Year 11. There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics, each worth 16.7% of the final qualification. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **How can I support my child in this subject?**

- Be positive about learning Science when speaking to your child, whatever your personal experience of Science was.
- Discuss what your child is learning in Science with them; get them to explain everyday phenomena to you. Draw their attention to and discuss scientific advances that are reported in the news.
- Your child should receive homework weekly – please insist that this is completed to a good standard. If you are able to, help your child to complete the homework. If they are stuck, encourage them to contact their teacher, who will be happy to help.
- Look through your child's Science book with them. Discuss the feedback they have received and how they can improve. Ask them to show you work that they are interested in or proud of.
- Encourage and help them to learn key words and formulae.
- Encourage them to use the resources accessible from the school website.





### How can I support my child with exams?

- Upcoming tests will be publicised on Show My Homework. Help them to identify the material they need to revise, using the revision lists they are given.
- Revision sessions will take place before each test and publicised on Show My Homework. Please encourage your child to attend.
- Help your child to plan their revision – a little, often is much better than cramming.
- Try to encourage your child to revise actively by condensing their notes, making mind maps, making revision cards. Ask them to identify specifically what they are learning then test them on it.