



6 December 2017

Dear Students and Parents

Changes to A Level Science Assessed Practicals (PAGs)

With the recent changes to A Level specifications for Biology, Chemistry and Physics the exam boards now require the school to demonstrate that students have completed all Science assessed practicals (PAGs) during the two-year course in order for the A Level to be endorsed. This obviously creates an increased importance of students being present in lessons when PAGs are undertaken so that they do not fail this element of the course. Whilst the passing or failing of the PAG endorsement will not affect the overall grade for the A Level it can affect university and course choices where the passing of the PAG element may be an entry requirement.

We fully understand that there will be times during the year where students miss lessons through illness, sporting activities or other demands but we need to bring to your attention the importance of students discussing with their teacher the impact of missing a lesson where a PAG is being undertaken prior to the lesson if it is a planned absence. There will of course be lunchtime opportunities for students to catch up on missed PAGs but due to the logistics of setting up these experiments with the required equipment it is not possible to run multiple catch up sessions for each PAG in lunchtimes for individual students.

Therefore, the Science faculty are requesting that where it is essential for a student to miss a lesson that they discuss this with their teacher prior to the lesson so that they can, preferably, find out if there is another class completing the same PAG at a time when the student is free and they could join that lesson to catch up or if this is not possible find out when the next allocated lunchtime catch-up for the PAG is and attend this as a priority.

If you have any questions regarding the PAG element of the course please do contact me.

Your sincerely

Mr Daren Jeffreys
Science Curriculum Manager