

Our Ref: SWA/AEL  
Date: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**Re: Year 9 Science Curriculum**

We wish to inform you about the curriculum going forward in Science. Firstly, I am pleased to tell you that all students in Year 9 will have three Science revision resources that will be provided for them as they enter Year 10. The resources are a revision guide, Science workbook and answer book. These resources will form the thrust of all student homework throughout Year 10 and 11. Further guidance on how to ensure their effective use will be made available in the new academic year when the resources are given out to students.

With regards to the Science curriculum a decision has made to provide that all students will be entered for the Combined Science GCSE and we will no longer offer Triple Science. The reasons for this decision are as follows:

1. The quality of Science in the Combined Science course is of a very high standard/demand. Students still study all three sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) with the Combined Science qualification.
2. Following a rigorous review of GCSE data it is clear that students who study Combined Science achieve better grades at GCSE than those taking the Triple Science route.
3. High profile university courses, such as medicine, bio-medicine and engineering do not stipulate a need to study Triple Science at GCSE and students with a higher Combined Science grade are more likely to be considered for a place on these courses.
4. Students wishing to study any of the Science subjects at A Level are not disadvantaged by studying the combined route.

Additionally to this I want to reassure you that students will still be able to study Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics at any Post 16 provider, including The Duston School. As a significant proportion of schools do not offer Triple Science, Post 16 providers and universities will require specific grades in either Combined Science or Triple Science and do not discriminate between them.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone or email.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr S Wade**  
**Director of Learning – Science**

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