



NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Triple science options for Year 9

The school has undertaken a significant review of curriculum at both KS3 and KS4 over the last term which has resulted in us planning for significant changes to the science provision at KS3 and 4.

Triple science will continue to be an option for students. Historically, this has been done in the same amount of time as that allocated to combined science. The KS4 science course has been started earlier in Year 9 in order to allow for the triple science course to be completed in time for terminal examinations.

This does not give triple science, which is equivalent to three separate GCSEs, the same parity in terms of curriculum time as other GCSEs. Placing triple science within the options choices resolves this issue. It also ensures that students will have enough curriculum time to ensure that the specification is covered in a depth that allows for a smooth transition to the KS5 study of science; a keen area of study for many of our students when they transition from us to college. These changes also support students in terms of their well being; giving students the curriculum time to fully explore all aspects of the course and give them time to feel confident in the application of what they have learnt prior to any assessments.

This plan will also allow us to ensure that KS3 curriculum time is given greater opportunities to explore science in a way that will allow for even better preparation for GCSE study; be it combined or triple science.

We understand that this communication is coming late in the options process. It is as a result of our very recent focus on a thorough curriculum review that we have identified this situation and feel these changes will enable a better science provision for all learners and ensure that students studying triple science GCSE are given the best opportunity to make progress towards excellent outcomes in Year 11.

To support students and families with these changes we will be working with students who have identified an interest in doing triple science and explaining these proposed changes. We would plan to re-issue an options form to students interested in doing triple science in order for them to revise their current option choices.

You would have recently received a communication from the Head of Science regarding the triple science entry criteria exam that was proposed for 8th June. To support students and families with



these changes, the science department will not be running an additional entry examination. The science department will be using the end of year test that is coming up in the KS3 exam fortnight which will run between 16th May – 27th May.

To support students we will be having an assembly with Year 9 students to provide information about these changes and support students interested in opting for triple science to review their options.

To support parents and families, we are hosting an information evening on **Monday 9th May at 5-6pm**. On this evening we will go over the details of these changes with parents and provide time to answer questions. To ensure we are able to provide detailed responses, we would ask parents to submit questions in advance of the evening, rather than take questions on the night, on the following link.

<https://forms.office.com/r/54rtUiY91d>

The form will be live until **Thursday 5th May at 9am**.

We trust that you understand our decision to make these changes in order that those students choosing triple science have the best learning experience possible and the best chance to succeed in their chosen option.

Yours faithfully

Nick O'Brien

Deputy Headteacher KS4