GCSE Science

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| **Course Details** | **AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy/AQA Separate Sciences**  All GCSE Science courses started in Year 9, Year 10 students have chosen to sit Separate Sciences or Combined Science. The majority of students are completing Combined Science; however, both Separate Sciences and Combined Science are two-year courses so students will complete all examinations at the end of Year 11.    Decisions about higher and foundation tiers of entry will take place after end of year exams have taken place in Year 10, so it is in the students’ best interests to work as hard as they can throughout the course and demonstrate their capability to be entered for higher tier papers. There is no opportunity for students to re-sit Science.  Students will complete a number of required practicals and these will form a part of the examination papers. Therefore, it is important that your child is in school to complete these. End of topic assessments will take place on a regular basis throughout the year in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. |
| **Exam Details** | We are following AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy and AQA Separate Sciences. Students are examined in all 3 sciences whether they follow the Combined Science or Separate Sciences course and all examinations will take place in the summer of Year 11.  **The written examinations are structured as follows:**  **GCSE Combined Science Trilogy**  Biology, Chemistry and Physics: 2 papers each subject  All papers are 1 hour 15 minutes  **GCSE Separate Sciences**  Biology, Chemistry and Physics: 2 papers each subject  All papers are 1 hour 45 minutes |
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| **Revision Guidance** | We have revision guides and all-in-one workbooks for Combined Science and also for the Separate Sciences available to buy from the Science Department.  We recommend that students buy and use these to support their studies during the two-year course and to help prepare for tests and assessments.  Revision classes may be held prior to the examinations and will be publicised by class teachers preceding the examinations.  We also offer peer mentoring program where a group of Year 9 students will get help and support from Year 10 or Year 11 students. These sessions are 30 minutes long and will be available after school to students who have agreed to attend these extra sessions. |
| **Useful Websites** | BBC GCSE Bitesize: www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science  S-cool - the revision website: www.s-cool.co.uk  Link to website where students can do topic-based past paper questions and use mark schemes to check their answers-[Physics & Maths Tutor (physicsandmathstutor.com)](https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/)  Seneca Learning |
| **What can I do?** | Help your child to make revision cards with selected information on related topics. Test your child: using their exercise book or revision notes to ask questions related to topics. Encourage them to use a revision guide and work book, as well as to use the Physics and Maths Tutor website to do past paper questions. |
| **What does your child need to do to succeed in this subject?** | Regularly review your work to check your understanding. Start your revision early. Ask your teachers for advice. Practise and develop effective revision techniques, not just copying from a revision guide. Do past paper questions on a regular basis. |
| **What does your child need to do to excel in this subject?** | Read around the topics you are studying; for example, using revision guides, websites, documentaries and specialist magazines, and making extra notes. |