



Smithdon High School
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Ref: CCh/NW

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Dear Parent

Re: Course Selection for Science Exam

I am writing to inform you that all students in Year 11 will sit a shortened GCSE exam paper for Biology, Chemistry and Physics as part of their ongoing assessments. This will take place during the week commencing 23 November and 30 November.

This assessment and the data from the 'Health Check' in September will determine what exam tier (Higher or Foundation) and exam course (Triple or Combined/Trilogy Science) each pupil is entered for. The assessment will also determine a working at grade for Science and we will take into account pupils' current attitude towards learning. From January we will reset pupils into Triple Science, Higher Science and Foundation tier classes.

The Triple Science course is equivalent to three separate GCSE's; Biology, Chemistry, and Physics and consists of six 1 hour 45 minute exams with additional content. The Combined Science Award is equivalent to two GCSE's and consists of six 1 hour 15 minutes exams. The selection for Triple or Combined Science does not prohibit pupils who wish to study A level or level 3 courses in a Science subject. Please visit the AQA website for more information regarding the content on each exam course.

Please do not hesitate to email c.chapman@smithdonhigh.org.uk if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Chapman
Assistant Headteacher/Head of Science

