

11th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to update you on an important development in the way we are delivering the Science curriculum this academic year.

Traditionally, students have begun studying GCSE Science content at the start of Year 9. However, following careful review and reflection, we have refined our approach to ensure that students are as well prepared as possible for the demands of their GCSE studies.

This year, rather than moving directly into GCSE topics, students will continue to explore Key Stage 3 Science in greater depth during the first part of the year. This will allow them to strengthen their understanding of key concepts, consolidate important knowledge, and develop the scientific skills required for success at GCSE level. Towards the end of the year, students will then begin a series of 'transition' units. These units are designed to ease the transition into GCSE Science by linking Key Stage 3 learning with the expectations and style of assessment at Key Stage 4. After these units, we will begin with the foundational topics of GCSE in all three subjects.

We believe this approach will give students a stronger foundation, helping them to enter their GCSE courses with greater confidence and readiness. It also allows us to tailor teaching more effectively, ensuring all students can make excellent progress.

With these changes, the way in which the Separate Science GCSE route will also be adapted. I will communicate with you again, later in the year, to update as to how this will happen. Please be assured that all groups in Year 9 are studying the same content, so no matter what group they are in currently, this will not limit their opportunities as we move forwards.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions about this change, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Mr J. Kendrick-Eriksen

Head of Science

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