

20 March 2019

Dear Parents/Guardian

Year 9 Science Assessments

We are writing to inform you that we will be **assessing all Year 9 students on all the work that they have studied this year during the week commencing 7 May 2019 (Year 9 Assessment Week)**. We will use the results of these examinations to help us update our groupings of the students and ensure the groups are balanced as they continue with the GCSE next year.

We would like as many students as possible to attain high grades in science (7 or better) and since the new combined science GCSE course is both more rigorous and has a much higher content we feel that the vast majority of students would have a better chance of attaining these high grades by following the combined science course than by following the single science GCSE courses.

Since the vast majority of students will be following the combined science course this course will now be the expected route for our A level scientists.

Having reviewed the latest GCSE guidance and papers to date, we will continue to offer **two single science groups**. This will equate to a maximum of 28 in each class, on each side of the year.

The final decision on offering these places will be based on the results of the 3 papers sat by students during the assessment week. Results will be rank ordered, and places will be offered to the highest achieving 28 on each year half. Where a student chooses not to take up this offer, the place will then be offered to the next student on the list.

The vast majority of students will continue to follow the combined science course.

Please encourage your child to prepare fully for the Year 9 science assessments and in good time. We recommend that students should revise in an active manner. They should avoid copying information from notes and textbooks and instead revise in a way where they are having to think, recall and apply their knowledge. Making resources, mind maps or explaining concepts to others are examples of active revision.

The students will sit 3 exams (50 marks each), one in biology, one in chemistry and one in physics, they will be assessed on the following topics:

Biology: Cell structure, cell transport, cell division, animal organisation and plant organisation.

Chemistry: Atomic structure, the periodic table, structure and bonding.

Physics: Forces, simple electrical circuits, energy resources, electrical safety and mechanics.

Your child's science teacher will have made the topic checklists lists for these examinations available through Google Classroom but you can also access them from the Year 9 Google Classroom (code: t3wctau).

The new GCSE incorporates practical contexts and ideas into the theory papers. The curriculum page on the school website and Google Classroom contain resources including electronic booklets which focus on the practical elements of the course and links to videos to remind students of the practical activities in addition to methods and follow up questions.

A copy of the online textbooks for each subject can be found by logging into the kerboodle website www.kerboodle.com. Each topic in the book has associated knowledge based questions and practice examination style questions are located at the end of each chapter. Mark schemes for the practice questions can be accessed via Google Classroom.

You can also access revision material via the science faculty website:

<https://sites.google.com/maidenerleghschools.co.uk/maidenerleghtrust/home>

Thank you for your support in the preparation of your son/daughter for their science examinations. Should you have any queries relating to this letter, please contact us via office@maidenerleghschool.co.uk.

Yours sincerely



Mrs H Anderson
Combined Science Leader



Miss J Speight
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