

15 July 2020

Dear Parents/Guardian

### **Year 10– Science Assessments – October 2020**

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 5 October 2020**. This is next academic year when they will be in Year 10. 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 their GCSEs.

We would like as many students as possible to attain high grades in Science (7 or better). 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.

**As the vast majority of students will be following the Combined Science course this course will 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 this week. Results will be rank ordered, and places offered to the highest achieving 28 students on each year half where they have achieved a minimum of a 5L. Where a student chooses not to take up this offer, the place will be offered to the next student on the list.

**Please encourage your child to prepare fully for these Science assessments 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:** Organic Chemistry, using resources, chemistry of the atmosphere and rates of reaction.

**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 Classroom code: 44pj766

The new GCSE incorporates practical contexts and ideas into the theory papers. The Google classroom contains resources including links to the virtual practical website. A copy of the online textbooks for each subject can be found by logging into the kerboodle website [www.kerboodle.com](http://www.kerboodle.com). Each topic in the book has associated knowledge based questions and practice examination style questions which 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/maidenerlegitrust/home>

Thank you for your support in the preparation of your son/daughter for his/her Science examinations. Should you have any queries relating to this letter, please contact us via  
[mesoffice@maidenerlegitrust.org](mailto:mesoffice@maidenerlegitrust.org)

Yours sincerely



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Co-leaders of Combined Science