

Tapton SCHOOL

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GCSE Triple Science and GCSE Combined Science

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the Year 10 exams and the midway point in our journey to final GCSE examinations, we are beginning the process of finalising our recommendations for GCSE examination routes in Science. We spoke to students about this in assembly on Monday and Science teachers will be speaking to students in their lessons.

There are two routes available in GCSE Science. Students can either study GCSE Combined Science or GCSE Triple Science. In Combined Science students study six units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and take either higher or foundation tier examinations; these examinations result in two GCSE qualifications. In Triple Science, students study six units in Biology and Chemistry and eight units in Physics and take either higher or foundation tier examinations; these examinations result in three separate GCSE qualifications. Students taking either Combined Science or Triple Science can access A-Level Sciences in the Sixth form providing they meet the entry criteria.

Please see the table below for further information:

GCSE Combined Science	GCSE Triple Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two GCSEs. Grades will look like this...2-3, 4-4, 9-9 and so on.• Six units across Biology, Chemistry and Physics.• Six exam papers each 1 hour and 10 minutes long.• Foundation and higher tier, however, the same tier must be taken across the six examinations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three separate GCSEs in each of the three Sciences.• Six units across Biology and Chemistry. Physics has eight units.• Six exam papers each 1 hour and 45 minutes long.• Foundation and higher tier, however, different tiers may be taken between Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
Higher tier grades 9-4, U Foundation tier grades 5-U	

From September of Year 11, students will move into Triple Science and Combined Science teaching groups. Students in Triple Science will continue to have six periods of Science a week; this will be the same whether students are doing the higher or foundation tier. Students studying higher tier Combined Science will also have six periods of Science a week. Students studying foundation tier Combined Science will have five periods of Science a week and an additional period of Maths. It is important to note that students who are expected to take foundation tier Maths may not be able to study higher tier Science in either route as the content for higher tier Science requires higher tier Maths.

In the forthcoming week, students will be asked to complete a Microsoft Form (link below) indicating their initial thoughts on pathways. This letter and link will also appear on Satchel:One and the deadline for completion is 9am on Friday 1st March. The results will be cross referenced with the considerations of the Science team and performance in the Year 10 examinations which will begin on Monday 15th April. Further discussion will take place at the Year 10 Progress Evening on Wednesday 19th June before teaching begins in September.

<https://forms.office.com/e/YPnxdS3i0X>

If you have any questions, please contact me at school hgrewal@taptonschool.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

Ms Harkiran Grewal
Deputy Headteacher



Valuing everyone, Caring for each other, Achieving excellence