

Headteacher: Mr D. Whales | Chair of Governors: Mr A. Brown

15th September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: GCSE SCIENCE ENTRY

Your son/daughter has been identified as suitable candidate to study an alternative GCSE Science pathway. They will be studying for GCSE Single Biology in year 9 & 10 and GCSE Single Physics in year 11 rather than the traditional GCSE Combined Science Double Award.

Over the past four years we have identified students who we feel would find it difficult to succeed taking the traditional GCSE Combined Science pathway. The traditional route involves studying the three science subjects and sitting six exams at the end of year 11 to gain two GCSE's in Combined Science. This focus on all three subjects and six exams at the end of year 11 results in significant cognitive overload, pressure and anxiety for the student. Consequently, we have found that students who follow the GCSE Single Biology and Physics route are more successful. They only study one GCSE in Biology in year 9 & 10 taking two exams in May and June of year 10 and one GCSE in Physics in year 11 again only taking two exams in May and June. Students still have the opportunity to gain two GCSE's in Science subjects, but this significantly reduces the pressure and anxiety they feel and maximises progress and therefore increases their chances of being successful.

We have found this alternative pathway to be very successful and welcomed by staff and students alike and believe it to be the correct choice for your son/daughter. If you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the Academy.



Kind regards,

Mr B Delve
Head of Science Faculty