



Tomlinscote School

7th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware your child took part in the End of Key Stage Science assessment last December. This internal assessment allowed me and my team to determine the extent of learning that had occurred during face-to-face interactions over the past few years. Considering the massive upheaval that has occurred, I and my team are really pleased with the progress that all the students have made.

All the students in Year 9 will now start working on the subject specific content for the GCSE Sciences. Students will now be studying the first topic from the biology curriculum and the first topic from the chemistry curriculum. At the end of these topics, a test using GCSE style examination questions will be completed. Students will then move onto the first topic in Physics and the second topic in Chemistry. The examination board that we use is Edexcel.

Your child has now been regrouped into a class based on their attainment in that internal assessment, completed in December 2021. Students that have been allocated into classes 1 – 4 will be following a very similar curriculum. The first two topics in each of the three sciences are very similar between GCSE Separate Sciences and GCSE Combined Sciences. Students in classes 5 and 6 will be completing a curriculum with slightly less content, at a more suitable pace.

The final decision on which students will be studying towards the Separate Sciences ('triple') will not be decided until the end of the summer term. These Triple Science sets will be determined based on attainment in the end of topic tests that will be completed throughout the Spring and Summer term. Therefore, there is an opportunity for all students to demonstrate that they have the potential to complete separate science courses in Years 10 and 11. Approximately 120 students will complete Triple Science in two sets either side of the year group.

I wish your child every success as they continue to learn in their Science lessons here at Tomlinscote.

Yours sincerely

Dr C Wiskin CBiol MRSB
Head of Science Faculty