



Tomlinscote School

5th December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are aware, your child participated in the End of Key Stage 3 Science assessment this term. I am impressed with the incredible revision and hard work all Year 9 students put into this assessment. They truly excelled in their independent study as well as during lessons.

To determine student placements into Combined Science or Triple Science GCSE sets, in January, we consider the following:

- end of Key Stage assessment
- Year 7 and 8 mid and end of year assessments
- lesson quiz data.

During the Spring Term and Summer Term in Year 9

Students will find their GCSE science sets by looking at their Edulink timetables on our return in January. All students will be following the Edexcel GCSE examination board.

Students in sets 1 to 4 will be completing Triple Science this year. All these students will follow the same course content and will sit a GCSE exam question paper at the end of every topic for Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, graded from 1 to 9 (with 1 being low and 9 being high).

Students in sets 5 and 6 will be engaged in the Combined Science course at a more suitable pace. They will also complete GCSE examination question papers at the end of each topic in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

At the end of the Summer Term in Year 9

We will then decide which students will continue with the Triple Sciences (three separate GCSEs) in year 10. This will be approximately 120 students across four classes. These will be mixed sets 1 and 2 on each side of the year group (T/S) i.e. S1, S2, T1, T2. The decision about who will be in these sets will be entirely based upon the assessment marks achieved during the year 9 Spring and Summer terms end of topic assessments and performance in lesson. This provides all students with an opportunity to showcase their potential for completing Separate Science courses in Years 10 and 11. Students allocated to sets 3 & 4 will become mixed Combined Science Higher and sets 5 & 6 mixed Combined Science Foundation groups.

I wish your child every success as they continue to learn in their science lessons here at Tomlinscote. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Speed
Head of Science Faculty