



Backwell School

An Ofsted Outstanding School
A National Teaching School

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Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE Triple Science in Year 10

We have been reviewing possible Science pathways for next year in light of your child's progress so far in Year 9. From the assessments carried out, we can see that your child is an able scientist who we believe at this stage should be capable of achieving an excellent set of Science GCSE results on the Triple Science pathway. As you know, there have been recent changes to the GCSE courses. Triple Science GCSE (Separate Science) is still a fast paced course and teaches three GCSEs in the same curriculum time as the usual two GCSEs. The Triple Science pathway continues to allow students to achieve separate qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, as opposed to the more popular pathway of Combined Science, which provides two GCSE qualifications in 'Science'.

Both pathways through Science GCSEs offer unrestricted access to the full range of Further and Higher Education Courses, including pure Science A-Levels and Degree courses, including Medicine and Veterinary Science, providing students attain suitable grades.

Your child will continue to have regular progress assessments throughout Year 10. This will provide an opportunity to assess whether they are working in line with their Target Grade and coping with the demands of the Triple Science course. The rigour of both the new GCSE pathways has increased, so we will continue to monitor progress to ensure it remains appropriate for them to be on the Triple Science route. Please note that the new GCSE curriculum no longer has a coursework element and is therefore 100% exam assessed at the end of the course (end of Year 11).

Please could you support the school by ensuring that your child is made fully aware of how important their Science GCSEs are. It is our aim that all students are able to move on to a Level 3 course either here at Backwell Sixth Form or at an alternative college of their choice. Gaining strong grades in Science GCSEs can be pivotal in securing a place in a Sixth Form College or our own Sixth Form.

Yours sincerely

M Lake
Director of Science