



Curriculum Content	Assessment	What homework will they have?	I'm not an expert, so how can I help?
<p>What will my child be studying?</p> <p>Either:</p> <p>AQA Separate Science Biology (8461) Chemistry (8462) Physics (8463)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>AQA Combined Science (8464)</p>	<p>Throughout the course students will take short tests at the end of each topic to diagnose their understanding of the topic. Students can use the tracker in their books to identify key areas to revise.</p> <p>Each half term students will also take a longer progress test in each subject which will be graded using the 1-9 scale. Following each test students are given feedback on their performance and have an opportunity to reflect upon what they can do to improve in their next assessment.</p>	<p>Homework will be set regularly during the year to help students extend their understanding of topics studied in lessons. Homework may take different forms from answering exam questions, carrying out research, drawing graphs, preparing for progress tests to making models. Often students are given a choice of presentation format allowing personal preferences or talents to be developed.</p> <p>Homework may be marked by a teacher or self or peer assessed in lessons.</p>	<p>You can support your child's progress in science in a number of ways – most readily by asking them about what they have been learning and having them explain the concepts to you. Further development at home could be in the form of watching scientific TV programs together, visiting a museum or nature reserve and by discussing science stories in the news.</p>

Content covered:

Biology:-

- Topic 1 - Cell biology, Growing microorganisms, Mitosis, Stem cells, Diffusion, Osmosis, Active Transport.
- Topic 2 - Enzymes and digestions, the heart and blood vessels, blood, coronary heart disease, risk factors to disease, cancer, plant tissues, organs and systems.
- Topic 3 - Pathogens, immune system, vaccinations, antibiotics and painkillers, developing new drugs, plant diseases.
- Topic 4 - Photosynthesis and respiration.

Chemistry:-

- Topic 1 - Elements, compounds and mixtures, Atomic structure, the periodic table, metals and non-metals, Groups 0, 1, 7 and transition elements.
- Topic 2 - Ionic, covalent and metallic bonding, states of matter, ionic compounds, polymers, giant covalent structures.
- Topic 3 - Relative formula mass, mass changes in reactions with gases, chemical measurements and Moles, percentage yield.

Physics:-

- Topic 1 - Potential energy, kinetic energy, work done and energy transfer, power, specific heat capacity, energy efficiency, energy sources and supply.
- Topic 2 - Static electricity, Electric current, series and parallel circuits, circuit components, electricity in the home.
- Topic 3 - Density, changes of state, specific heat capacity and latent heat.

Literacy and numeracy:

In science lessons and homework we regularly set tasks which support student's development of literacy and numeracy skills. We particularly focus on the correct use of scientific terminology (including the correct spelling of keywords) and the ability of students to use and manipulate numbers when collecting and analysing scientific data.

What can I do to help my child?

Encourage your child to regularly re-read their class notes. Ongoing revision is essential as the science curriculum does not spiral - we do not revisit the same topics again at a higher level, once the topic is finished students do not see that topic again until their final exams. We include some questions from previous topics in our Progress Tests to try to keep the knowledge fresh as Year 9, 10 and 11 go by.

Additional resources and details of core texts used:

Any revision guide that is specific to the AQA 9-1 course is relevant but please check whether your child's course is Separate or Combined science. Harper Collins revision guides are available through ParentPay where we can buy them for you direct from the publishers.

Teaching group arrangements:

All groups are set according to ability. We review these arrangements during the year and make necessary adjustments. Most teaching groups have three science teachers one for each subject area.

Where can I get more advice?

Dr V Larner (Curriculum Leader) – vlarner@stratfordschool.co.uk. Please include the name of your child's teacher so the message can be forwarded appropriately.