

February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Science Examinations

In a previous letter dated 23 November 2023, I explained that the results achieved by students in the recent Year 10 Examinations help to determine the most suitable Science pathway and, in a small number of cases, may lead to set changes for each Science subject. I write today to inform you of your child's results and of any setting/course allocation decision.

Having considered your child's Science mock exam results, I am keen to ensure that they achieve the best possible results in GCSE Science.

After very careful consideration of your child's performance and having discussed their potential in the Sciences with their teachers, I write to inform you that they **will continue** studying the *Combined Science: Trilogy* syllabus.

This decision is based on objective examination performance data and the professional judgement of your child's teachers. Both the course allocations and setting decisions have been made in order to ensure the best possible outcome for each individual student. Given the size of the cohort of students, it is simply not practicable to discuss individual course allocation decisions and the setting decisions outlined in your child's report with parents. Please note that this letter is for information only; the Science decision at this stage is not a matter of optionality or preference – it is a School decision made at this point in the three-year GCSE course in order to ensure that your child's programme of Science lessons is best-suited to their ability and performance.

The Combined Science course involves taking three sets of examinations (two in Biology, two in Chemistry and two in Physics). Each exam paper will be 1 hour 15 minutes in duration and will assess all GCSE Science topic areas. Two GCSE grades (e.g. 9-9, 8-8, 7-7 etc) will be awarded. Students are required to take all Science exams at the end of the course in Year 11, in **June 2025**.

The Combined Science syllabus excludes the extension material in some topic areas, allowing students more time for review and structured revision in lessons. The exam papers are shorter, which should ensure that your child achieves a more valuable set of GCSE Science grades overall; a set of grades such as 8 - 8, achieved in the Combined Science Award, is more valuable than a set of 5, 5, 5 grades obtained in the separate Sciences, in the Triple Award.

Since the vast majority of students across the country study the Combined Science course, all A-Level specifications assume no more subject knowledge than successful completion of the Combined Science course. No specification (and no university) demands more than Combined Science for any student wishing to study any or all of the Sciences beyond GCSE.

In order for this course of action to be implemented it might be necessary for your child to move Science set for the remainder of the GCSE course. Any amendments to setting will come into effect on **Monday 19 February** and new timetables will be available for students to view on *Satchel:One* by that day. Please be aware that if you use a mobile device to access *Satchel:One*, you will need to close down the app and re-open it in order for it to refresh and display the new timetable.

Other Important information:

A further report will be provided towards the end of the academic year; the programme of reporting over the academic year 2023-24 can be found on the School website in the 'School Information – Tracking and Reporting' section.

Progress Review Meetings

Progress Review Meetings (PRMs) will take place during Term 6 in June 2024. These are important days in our School calendar and are an opportunity for a one-to-one discussion with your child's subject teachers to explore their progress in more detail. I know that balancing work and family commitments can often be difficult but I do hope that you are able to support your child by booking one or more PRM appointments.

Your child's current and new sets are indicated on your child's report. Should you have any concerns or require further clarification on any issues arising from this report please email academic@bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K Woolf', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mrs K Woolf
Head of Science Faculty