

February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Science Examinations

In my previous letter dated 23 November 2023, I explained that the results achieved by students in the recent Year 10 Science 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.

Having considered your child's Science mock exam results I can now confirm that they will follow the **Triple Award** Science course rather than the Combined Science route.

Your child's results suggest that their current preparation, as well as the potential they have shown in Science lessons, will allow them to achieve a respectable grade in each of the Science subjects (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) at GCSE.

The Triple Award route is more demanding for students than the Combined Science course as it requires them to take two separate exams in each of the Science subjects. Each exam paper includes extension material and all are of longer duration than in the Combined Science course. However, your child's mock exam results and their associated performance provide a strong indication that they are well placed to be successful in following the Triple Award course.

Your child will take two exams in each Science subject (a total of six exams) each of 1 hour 45 minutes in duration, **in June 2025**.

The setting decisions are 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/carers. Please note that this letter is for information only; the decisions at this stage are not a matter of optionality or preference – it is a School decision made at this point in the three-year GCSE courses in order to ensure that each student's programme of lessons is best-suited to their ability and performance.

Switching to the Triple Award course may require your child to move Science set for the remainder of the 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* from by that day. Please be aware that if you use a mobile device to access *Satchel:One*, the app will need to be closed and re-opened in order for it to refresh and display the new timetable.

Other Important information

A further progress 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.

If you have any queries regarding Science GCSE exam options, please do not hesitate to contact me *via* 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