

SCIENCE - GCSE

Science enables students to learn and understand the world around them. Every day subjects from electricity in our homes to catastrophic events such as a tsunami are covered. Science is a gateway to a wide range of careers. Doctors, vets, physiotherapists and beauticians need knowledge of Science. Engineers, astronomers, chefs and plumbers also use their science skills on a daily basis.

Next year students will start on one of 2 pathways:

1. Combined Science
2. Separate Sciences

The selection for these pathways is based on the end of Year 9 assessment and continual assessment throughout Year 10 and Year 11.

1. Combined Science Pathway

During Year 10 and 11 students will follow the Edexcel GCSE Combined Science to complete the Double Award Science Pathway. Students will be awarded a double Science GCSE.

This course provides students with a broad, coherent course that adds to their knowledge and understanding of the living, material and physical worlds. This course is designed to follow on directly from the course studied in Key Stage 3.

The Combined Science course will be delivered in discrete topics that cover Biology, Chemistry and Physics content. The increase in challenge of the Combined Science course prepares students perfectly for the demands of A level Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Assessment - May/June Year 11

Six written exams (1 hour 10 minutes each) comprising of two Biology exams, two Chemistry exams and two Physics exams. Each paper will be available in foundation and higher tier and worth 60 marks.

2. Separate Science Pathway

During Year 10 and 11 students will follow the Edexcel GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics programmes of study to complete the Separate Science Pathway. Students will be awarded three separate GCSEs.

Separate Science provides students with an advanced course that extends their current knowledge and understanding of the living, material and physical worlds. This course is designed to build directly from the Combined Science course content and is only available to students grouped into the 2 year 10 top sets.

There are a variety of ways the additional content is delivered, depending on the year 10 cohort. The separate science is either taught exclusively to those who are allocated a place in the top groups during curriculum time or by specialists during extracurricular teaching sessions. It is expected that students taking Separate Science should be strongly considering progressing to at least two A level Sciences in Year 12.

Assessment - May/June Year 11

Six written exams (1 hour 45 minutes each) comprising of two Biology exams, two Chemistry exams and two Physics exams. Each paper will be available in foundation and higher tier and worth 100 marks.