



Tring School

Mortimer Hill, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5JD

Tel: 01442 822303 Fax: 01442 890409 E: tringschool@tring.herts.sch.uk
www.tring.herts.sch.uk Headteacher: Mrs Susanna Collings BSc (Hons), MA, FRSA

14 October 2011

GCSE Science Curriculum 2011-13

Dear Parent/Carer and Students

I would like to take this opportunity to share the outcomes of the recent Year 10 Science meeting with you.

All GCSE examination boards are currently making a number of significant changes to their specifications in light of the Government's decision to reduce the 're-sit culture', remove the coursework and replace it with controlled assessment, and to change the current modular system to a terminal examination model. All Science specifications were changed with effect from September 2011 and all of these changes have been brought in very quickly and, indeed, are still being finalised by the examination boards. As a school we are having to adapt to these changes as they are finalised.

The majority of students in Tring School will follow the AQA Science A specification and will complete their core Science GCSE in Year 10 and their Additional Science GCSE in Year 11. Each of these examinations will follow the same format – a written short answer examination in June in Biology, Physics and Chemistry each paper being 25% of the final mark and a controlled assessment unit, also worth 25%. The CAU is an Investigative Skills paper which will be taught and examined in the Spring term of Year 10 and Year 11. Each student will complete a CAU in each discipline and the best mark attained will be added to their written paper marks.

The Science pathway for these students will therefore be:

Core Science GCSE	Taught	Examined
Biology 1	Year 10	June 2012
Chemistry 1	Year 10	June 2012
Physics 1	Year 10	June 2012
Controlled assessment unit	Spring 2012	Spring 2012

Additional Science		
Biology 2	Year 11	June 2013
Chemistry 2	Year 11	June 2013
Physics 2	Year 11	June 2013
Controlled assessment unit	Spring 2013	Spring 2013

Please note that new GCSE regulations apply to this specification and re-sits of individual papers are NOT PERMITTED. Any student who wishes to re-sit will have to re-sit all four papers in January 2012 and/or June 2013 (at the same time as all their other Year 11 exams).

There will be a group of students for whom Triple Science is an appropriate course and for the students studying GCSEs in 2011-13 this will be offered as an option for the most able scientists. These are students who are averaging A and A* on all end of unit tests. The students to whom this option will be offered will be selected in December 2011. Parents of students who have demonstrated appropriate aptitude will receive a letter of invitation to join the Triple Science course in January 2012. The course will only run with a minimum class size of 25. If we have more or less than 25, we will carefully look at our present funding model for the course to best meet the needs of all our students. To reassure you, historically at Tring School we have routinely had an average of 25 students in each half year for whom this is an appropriate pathway.

Each of these examinations will follow the same format – 3 written examinations in each of Biology, Physics and Chemistry, each paper being 25% of the final mark and a controlled assessment unit also worth 25% in each of the three areas.

Triple Science GCSE	Taught	Examined
Biology 1	Year 10	June 2012
Chemistry 1	Year 10	June 2012
Physics 1	Year 10	June 2012
Biology 2	June 2012 – Jan 2012	January 2013
Chemistry 2	June 2012 – Jan 2012	January 2013
Physics 2	June 2012 – Jan 2012	January 2013
Biology 3	Jan 2012 – May 2012	June 2013
Chemistry 3	Jan 2012 – May 2012	June 2013
Physics 3	Jan 2012 – May 2012	June 2013
CAU Biology	Year 11	To be confirmed by AQA
CAU Chemistry	Year 11	To be confirmed by AQA
CAU Physics	Year 11	To be confirmed by AQA

We are working towards a model which may allow students following the triple science option to be allocated an additional two periods of curriculum time in Year 11 to support their access to this very challenging and demanding course.

Please note that new GCSE regulations apply to this triple specification and re-sits of individual papers are NOT PERMITTED. Additionally, any student who embarks on the course cannot then be returned to the double Science option.

We would also like to remind parents and students that to study Science at Advanced level students require a grade B or above in the individual Science or in Additional Science and, furthermore, the double module in science is well recognised on all university courses where they specifically set the entry grade requirement for both triple and double GCSE science.

We appreciate your support and would be grateful if you could continue to ensure your child completes the two homeworks that will be set every two weeks by each of the three subjects, and encourage them to use the extensive Science resources for furthering knowledge, revision and examination practice on Moodle.

If you would like your child to have a copy of the text book for home use, you should purchase GCSE AQA Science Specification A, published by Nelson Thornes ISBN-10: 1408508222 and/or ISBN-13: 978-1408508220.

Yours sincerely

Alison Gent
Director of learning
agent@tring.herts.sch.uk

Our ref: AG/PS