



Notre Dame
Catholic College

Established 1869

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Dear Parent / Carer

What is this letter about?

This letter is to inform you about proposed changes we are making to the GCSE science entries for students in Year 10.

What are the changes?

We are proposing to move students from doing the Trilogy Science GCSE (worth 2 GCSEs) to separate Biology and Chemistry GCSEs (together worth 2 GCSEs).

Why are we making these changes?

As we have received more information regarding the Trilogy GCSE we feel it is not the most suitable option for our students in sets J, N and O. There is a very large amount of content to be covered in great detail and students will be examined only at the end of Year 11. This in effect means they will have 6 very challenging GCSEs to take in science covering chemistry, physics and biology.

If we move to 2 separate GCSEs (Biology and Chemistry) this will reduce the amount of content to be examined by the students and, hopefully, ensure they come out with higher grades in GCSE science. Either way they will still be entered for 2 science GCSEs.

What about Physics?

The students will still cover the National Curriculum content for Physics but this will no longer need to be in the depth required for the Trilogy GCSEs.

What if my child wants to do Physics GCSE?

For most students wanting to move into a science based career the biology and chemistry GCSEs are more than suitable and both allow progression into A Level or Level 3 BTEC. In addition to this, most students looking to follow a degree level career within the sciences will already have chosen the 3 separate sciences as part of the Year 9 Options process. However, if your child has a deep passion to follow such a career we can switch them on to the separate science path (this would see them entering for 3 GCSEs in science – Chemistry, Physics and Biology). To do this, however, they would need to give up one of their other options.

What do I need to do now?

If you are happy with the proposed changes then you do not need to do anything and the change will be implemented over the next couple of weeks.

If you want your child to follow all 3 separate sciences then please contact me at the school to discuss this further. As a school we always try to avoid making unnecessary changes but we firmly believe that this is an important change which will benefit the students greatly.

Thanking you in anticipation of your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Rannard
Acting Headteacher