

Our Ref: 025/18

9th February 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

After February half term, year 9 pupils will be starting their GCSE Science qualification and therefore will be given a specialist teacher for each of the sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. As you are aware some pupils will be opting to take triple science in Year 10 (3 GCSEs) and others will follow the combined science trilogy course (2 GCSEs). The topics that will be covered during the remainder of year 9, up until the options start in year 10, are common to both these courses.

Both the separate sciences and the combined science course are offered at a higher and foundation tier with some content being studied at greater depth by pupils taking the higher tier. Tier entry is not decided until spring term of year 11, although, for a number of pupils, it is important that they embark on a particular tier in order to ensure content is studied at an appropriate pace. In order to achieve this, we will need to put pupils into temporary groups for the remainder of y9 until the option groups commence and these groups will be broadly based on pupils challenge grades. Undoubtedly these groups will change when options begin in year 10.

The new GCSE Science qualifications are very challenging and will require a mature approach to both classwork and homework, which I am sure our Year 9s are ready for. Throughout the course pupils will be expected to be able to recall significant number of scientific facts and ideas as well as applying their understanding to both familiar and unfamiliar contexts. There are a number of online resources that your son can access at home when completing homework or revising and he will be given a username and password in order to access these. These include a digital copy of the class text book on www.kerboodle.com along with other resources and short topic videos on www.gcsepod.com.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me, my email address is cmanwaring@stmargaretsacademy.com.

Kindest regards,

Dr C Manwaring
Head of Science and Associate Assistant Principal