



February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Revision Support for GCSE Combined Science and Triple Science students

As a reflection of their continued hard work, your child is hoping to achieve a set of excellent grades in their Science GCSE exams this summer. This requires them to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of their work over the last three years by sitting six papers (two in each of the Sciences).

Topics covered by each Exam Paper for GCSE Science

+T = Includes some content for Triple Science only

BIOLOGY

PAPER 1: Chapters 1 to 9

Cell Biology (+T)
Organisation
Infection & Response (+T)
Photosynthesis
Respiration

PAPER 2: Chapters 10-18

Homeostasis & Response (+T)
Inheritance, Variation & Evolution(+T)
Ecology (+T)

CHEMISTRY

PAPER 1: Chapters 1-7

Atomic Structure & the Periodic Table (+T)
Bonding, structure, properties of matter (+T)
Quantitative Chemistry (+T)
Chemical Changes
Energy Changes (+T)

PAPER 2: Chapters 8 to 15

The rate and extent of chemical change
Organic Chemistry (+T)
Chemical Analysis
Chemistry of the Atmosphere
Using Resources (+T)

PHYSICS

PAPER 1: Chapters 1 to 7

Energy
Electricity
Particle Model of Matter (+T)
Atomic Structure & Radiation (+T)

PAPER 2: Chapters 8 to 16

Forces (+T)
Waves (+T)
Magnetism & Electromagnetism(+T)
Space Physics (only T)

To facilitate the crucial revision process and maximise their chances of success, I would like to make you aware of the range of support available for your child at this important time.

Past Exam Papers:

There is no substitute for practising the application of knowledge and skills than through exam questions. These papers and their respective mark schemes are available to download from the exam board website (www.aqa.org.uk) or from our 'GCSE Science Resources' area of Frog.

To save your printers at home, we will also sell hard copies at cost price to students. The booklets can only be pre-purchased through ParentPay. The price is **£4.00 for 18 Past Papers (£5.00 for Triple Science)**. This provides three past papers, and their respective mark schemes, for each of the six exams. The deadline for ordering is **Wednesday 15 March**.

Those that place an order will receive their booklets before the Easter break. Students who qualify for the Pupil Premium funding do not need to purchase the booklets as they will automatically receive them.

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Revision books:

We recommend the Revision Guides by Oxford University Press. They cover all the required knowledge and have lots of retrieval practice, as well as exam style questions. They also contain many other support materials e.g. help with the Maths skills in Science and all the Required Practicals.

<https://global.oup.com/education/content/secondary/series/oxford-revise-aqa-gcse-science/?view=ProductList®ion=uk>

They offer both Higher and Foundation tier versions for Combined Science and also guides for the separate GCSEs (Triple). Pupil Premium Students were issued with these at the start of Year 10. Details of these guides (including ISBNs) can be found on our 'GCSE Science Resources' site on Frog

Science Revision Programme:

As part of the whole school revision programme, students can access session-by-session guidance on what and how to revise for their Science exams.

Online support:

Our GCSE Science homepage on Frog (called GCSE Science Resources) is full of useful links and resources for revision. Backwell School also subscribes to www.kerboodle.com which is an excellent resource that your child is hopefully already using. They have their own personal login, which allows them access to full copies of the main textbooks used in class, as well as online lessons, worksheets and questions. The websites www.senecalearning.com and www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize are also extremely popular with students.

The Science area of Frog has past papers and mark schemes for the all the AQA GCSE exams, as well as practice questions relating to the Required Practical element. It also has a Virtual Lab where students can practice any of the Required Practicals that will be assessed in the exams. Instructions on how to get started are on Frog. It would be helpful for your child if you could ensure that they know how to access these websites via Frog from home. Should your child encounter any problems accessing any of these sites, please contact their teacher so that they can resolve any issues.

Adjustments from the Exam Board for 2024 only (AQA):

As you are hopefully aware, the exam boards have provided some small adjustment to the summer exams for Science this year. This is to recognise the disruption caused by Covid. The only adjustment this year is that students will be provided with all the equations in both their Physics exams. Pre- 2020, the equation list was a reduced version. Students this year will not need to memorise any equations, as they receive the full list. I must make it clear that **students are still expected to know which equation to use, the variables included and their units, and how to re-arrange them.** Therefore, it is essential they practice applying these equations as part of their preparation. All students were provided with a hard copy of the equation sheet just before their trial exams in January (it is also available on our 'GCSE Science Resources' site on Frog).

We would be grateful if you could support the school by discussing all the options above with your student, so they are made fully aware of how important their Science GCSEs are. Good Science grades widens future educational and employment choices.

Yours sincerely

M Lake
Director of Science