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LOWER SCHOOL (Keystage 3)

There has been a new curriculum for Science at Keystage 3 for one year now. Currently, the Year 8's are trail-blazing the way, so the new Year 7's are following in their footsteps. Both Years will eventually embark on the forthcoming new G.C.S.E specifications, which will end up with grades 1 to 9, rather than grades G to Astar.

We shall complete the Keystage 3 course in January of their year 9. Students will then be tested internally on Keystage 3 work, before embarking on other things. These include-

- starting year 10 G.C.S.E. science topics
- personally chosen whole investigations
- competitions
- extra-curricular opportunities that wouldn't normally be available.

At Keystage 3, all students have three one hour lessons per week, and in Year 7 they are kept in mixed ability groups in order to help them settle into secondary school.

In years 8 and 9 it becomes necessary to put the students into banded ability groups. There are three sets in each band.

UPPER SCHOOL (Keystage 4) NEW GCSE courses for 2018 onwards. Students take either:-

COMBINED SCIENCE G.C.S.E. (Trilogy) (2 year course, all 6 exams in year 11) (AQA)
5 lessons of Science per week. No controlled assessments
All exams are at the end of year 11, there will be six exams, each 1hr 15min long.

Or

BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS G.C.S.E.'s
called "Separate Award" (2 year course, all 9 exams in year 11) (AQA)
5 lessons of Science per week. No controlled assessments.
Longer exams. (1hr 45min). There will be 9 exams at the end of year 11.

All upper school courses are staffed by specialists in their field. This continues to be a strength of the department and one that is becoming rare in many schools. The ultimate benefit of this is that staff can relate teaching to "A" levels, future careers, and also answer the sort of interesting but tricky questions students raise about a topic. Moreover, staff have years of experience of the sort of exam questions that AQA set.

Following the Year 9 exams, +the highest achieving students will be offered the opportunity to follow the "**Triple award**" award course with separate G.C.S.E.'s in the individual sciences.

The majority of year 10 students will follow the new two year "**Combined Science**" G.C.S.E. course. This will be similar to the old "Double Award" course, allowing achievement of 2 G.C.S.E.'s. Based on data evidence, students will be entered for either Higher tier or Foundation tier exams.