

Fulford School

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Dear Parent/ Carer, 01/02/22

**Re: Year 11 Science Course**

I’m sending this letter so that you are fully informed about possible curricular routes as we progress through the remainder of year 11. Though our current year 11s have faced challenges through KS4, we remain committed to providing the very best for each of our students in Science.

It seems highly likely that students will take external exams this summer. This means we need to carefully weigh what is in each individual’s best interests:

1. Complete the Triple Science course (leading to separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each graded 9-1).
2. Complete the Combined Science course (leading to 2 GCSEs in Science, graded 9-1).

Whilst many students will be best served by completing the first route, we always have a significant number of students who achieve great success through completing Combined Science (with less material to review). Potentially this could help alleviate some pressure at a key point in the year and aid students work towards top grades.

I would like to emphasise that the key motivator in providing this flexibility is to support students in achieving success. Teachers will not inform students of a route they ‘must’ take; rather this will take the form of a discussion. You will receive a letter next half term informing you of our perspective.

As you will know, the academic achievement of students at Fulford is typically excellent. Performance in Science is particularly strong and over recent years we have found this to be especially pronounced for students from Triple Science classes who ultimately take the Combined Science route. Please note: this does not involve a change in teaching group.

The central issue in all of this is what is best for the students involved. It is vital that any change in course is matched with an aspirational approach; such a change at this stage should only be to facilitate aiming for the top grades.

Should you require any further information please feel free to contact me at baileys@fulford.york.sch.uk. We will work alongside students who decide to change courses in this way to help ensure they are fully focussed on achieving success.

Thank you for your on-going support in your child’s Science education. It makes a huge difference!

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Bailey, Science Curriculum Leader, Fulford School



The South York Multi-Academy Trust.

Registered address: Fulfordgate, Heslington Lane, Fulford, York YO10 4FY.

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