

Our Ref: 135/13

11th September 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to inform you that your son will be sitting his GCSE Science A at the end of this academic year in either May or June 2014. This consists of three individual papers in Biology, Chemistry and Physics along with a controlled assessment that will be completed in school time. If he achieves a C grade or above he will go on to do GCSE Additional Science in June 2015. This will result in two GCSE's in science.

Students who are only a few marks below a C grade in year 10 will be given the opportunity to continue with Additional Science during normal science lessons and also resit Year 10 Science A in June 2015. This re-sit would require students to attend regular after school science revision lessons throughout year 11 along with individual study at home.

These lessons would be compulsory and you will be contacted at the beginning of year 11 if this is a requirement for your son. The timetable for these lessons will be available at the start of the academic year and will be put onto the school website after results are available in August 2014.

However, if he achieves a grade which we feel would be extremely difficult to bring up his Science A result to a grade C, he will not progress to the Additional Science course and he will be taught the Science A material again in year 11 and be entered for a re-sit in June 2015 to which will improve his chances of obtaining a GCSE grade of C or above in at least one science GCSE. We as a school feel that it is more beneficial for a pupil to have the highest grade that he can attain in at least one science subject, than to attain two GCSE's which are of a low grade.

It is therefore vital, that your son puts in the maximum effort in both within science lessons and outside school. All pupils have a username and password to access a resource called kerboodle which has an online textbook and revision activities. I would also advise to purchase a revision guide for your son, the one that is most suitable to the course is; 'New AQA Science GCSE Science A Revision Guide from Nelson Thornes ISBN 978-1-4085-0823-7.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me

Miss E Clarkson
Head of Department