



24th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Changes to Year 11 Science Groups After Half Term

After the half term break, there will be some changes to Year 11 science groups. These changes are being made to ensure that group sizes remain balanced, so that every student continues to receive the best possible education and the teaching and learning environment remains as inclusive and dynamic as ever.

One of our core principles in the science department is to provide all students with equal opportunities to be challenged, succeed, and grow academically. To achieve this, we will be teaching students in mixed prior attainment groups, where every student has the opportunity to access higher-tier content. We believe that this approach recognises the unique strengths and areas for development that each student possesses and emphasises the importance of challenging and supporting every student to achieve their very best. Our curriculum, teaching strategies, and assessment methods are designed to cater to the varied needs of students and our experienced team of subject specialists are dedicated to delivering aspirational and encouraging lessons. As always, we continuously review this to ensure that we are best meeting the needs of all our students.

You may have already had conversations with your child about their tier of entry. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify how the tiers work. The new 9-1 tiers differ from the old A-G graded GCSEs; the higher paper is designed for students aiming for a grade 6 or above, which is approximately equivalent to a high B on the old GCSE grading scale. Therefore, the higher tier is aimed at fewer students than the old-style higher papers, which were designed for students aiming for a grade C or above. Furthermore, it is possible for students who do not achieve a grade 5 on the higher paper to 'fall off the bottom' of the grading and be awarded an 'ungraded'. With this in mind, in order to be entered for the higher tier, it is crucial students have consistently demonstrated their ability to achieve a grade 6 in assessments. As always, our teachers will work closely with students to determine the most suitable tier for them.

In addition to the support offered in lesson, we hold weekly lunchtime and after school 'drop in' support sessions. We would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to attend these sessions regularly. I have attached the schedule to this letter for reference.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me by email:

hindes@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Emma Hindes

Science Curriculum Leader



QEGS Science Y11 Support Sessions

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week A					
Lunchtime	GCSE Chemistry support room 308			GCSE Biology support room 308 GCSE Physics support room 310	
After school			Science support EHI ASM library		Science support library
Week B					
Lunchtime		GCSE Biology support room 308	GCSE Chemistry support room 308	GCSE Physics support room 308	
After school			Science support EHI library		Science support library

For clubs in 308 & 310, you may bring your lunch with you