

EH/SH  
8<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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**Head Teacher:**  
Mr R S Samra B.A., M.A.

Dear Parent, Guardian or Carer,

### Science PPEs, Revision resources, Science groups and Year 11 Science routes

As you are aware, Year 10 have their PPEs (pre-public exams), starting on 27 June. These are a fantastic opportunity to not just experience GCSE style exams to prepare them for Year 11, but also to demonstrate what they have learnt in Science during Years 9 and 10.

Students will currently be revising for these exams in their own time. To help with this, the Science department is providing revision lists and resources via class charts. Students can also access a number of other resources, including CGP revision guides and Tassomai (both available on ParentPay), Seneca, Educake, BBC Bitesize and Oak Academy. With so many options available, it is important that students find and use revision methods which work best for them, and this may well include tried and tested methods such as making and using revision cards and condensing notes.

As well as providing this useful experience for students, the PPEs also provide us with valuable information for grouping students in Year 11, which will be different to the way students are grouped in Year 10 in order to give more flexibility.

Grades from these PPEs will also inform decisions about students' exam routes to optimise their achievement at the end of Year 11, in two areas, namely exam route and exam tier. It is therefore imperative that students approach these exams in a diligent manner and prepare fully for each paper.

#### Exam route

Most students at Southam College take AQA Trilogy Combined Science exams at the end of Year 11, which involves six 75 minute exams and gives two GCSE grades up to a maximum of 9.9. A smaller number of students take the AQA 'Separate Sciences' route, with six 105 minute exams and three GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each with a maximum grade of 9. Both routes allow equal access to the same courses in the Sixth Form. The results of the Year 10 Science PPEs will form part of the evidence we use to finalise which of these exams students will take at the end of Year 11, regardless of their current teaching group.

## Exam tier

In terms of tier, students taking the Combined Science route can take exams in either Foundation or Higher tier (not both). The Foundation tier gives grades between 1,1 and 5,5 whereas the Higher tier gives grades between 4,3 and 9,9. It is therefore very important that we enter students for the correct tier, and again the Year 10 PPE results will form part of the evidence we use to do this, regardless of their current teaching group. It is anticipated that all students entered for the 'Separate Sciences' route will be entered for the Higher tier examinations.

I hope that this letter gives you enough information about the forthcoming Science PPEs and their significance, however should you require further information please contact me at the school, ideally by email.

Yours faithfully,



Jim Eltringham  
Head of Science  
Southam College

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