



GCSE Combined Science

Key contacts: Mr A Makeham
Exam Board: AQA

Overview of the course:

This route of scientific enquiry is an excellent preparation for future life and study and is suitable for everyone. All who do not choose Separate Sciences as an Option will follow this course.

Students will learn Biology, Chemistry and Physics from specialist teachers, each with three hours per fortnight. At the end of the course they will be examined in each subject, and the marks will be combined to give a 'double' GCSE Grade. The course examinations can be taken at Foundation Level (Grades 1,1 – 5,5) or Higher Level (Grades 4,4 – 9,9).

Both Combined Science and Separate Science are gateway qualifications to studying all three Science disciplines at Post-16.

What will you study?

The subject content for Biology includes:

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Chemistry content includes:

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Physics content includes:

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism

Throughout the course, there will be regular required practicals, through which you will gain valuable scientific skills.

Assessment

At the end of the course, you will sit two examinations per subject (two for Biology, two for Chemistry and two for Physics), each 75 minutes long. The answers required will include short answers to recall scientific facts, longer answers about the application of knowledge and mathematical and scientific skills.

Possible career path:

This course will be useful for many career paths and you will be able to study A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Environmental Science.