



March 2017

RE: Year 11 Science

Dear Parental Salutation

I am writing to provide advice and support in preparation for the Science mock exams and in the long term for the final Science exams this summer.

Your child will be following one of the following programs of study for Science.

11x1 and 11y1

OCR Gateway Biology GCSE

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-gateway-science-suite-biology-b-j263-from-2012/>

OCR Gateway Chemistry GCSE

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-gateway-science-suite-chemistry-b-j264-from-2012/>

OCR Gateway Physics GCSE

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-gateway-science-suite-physics-b-j265-from-2012/>

11x2, 11x3, 11x4, 11y2

OCR Gateway Science GCSE

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-gateway-science-suite-science-b-j261-from-2012/>

OCR Gateway Additional Science GCSE

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-gateway-science-suite-additional-science-b-j262-from-2012/>

11y3 and 11y4

AQA Science A GCSE

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/science-a-4405>

AQA Additional Science GCSE

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/additional-science-4408>

It is important that students are revising the correct content for the courses that they are following and also the correct tier of entry (foundation/higher).

Revision Guides

Most of the publishers produce course specific revision booklets and we stock and sell the Collins version of these in the school shop. The revision booklets can be very effective for some students and we highly recommend that students have these to help structure their revision. The books also have practice questions that students can attempt and then mark using answers in the back. (Please Note: that if the cost of revision guides is a concern some students may be eligible for free/loan copies, which I am happy to discuss confidentially on an individual basis).

Past Exam Papers / Questions

There are lots of past exam questions available via the exam board websites (follow/click the links next

to the courses above). They also publish the mark schemes and examiners reports. Students will get the most from past exam questions when they are attempted under pressure – i.e. when parents time them to complete a small section (1 mark per minute) and then the mark scheme is applied and corrections made. This can also help to identify areas of weakness and strength which in turn helps to focus and guide future revision.

The examiners reports can be great for looking at the common mistakes that students make and thus help you to avoid them.

We will also put numerous past papers and mark schemes on the shared W: drive on the school system. If any student wants access to the papers but doesn't have internet access, they can copy the papers to memory stick or print them via their school account (there may be a charge for this).

Websites / apps

There are loads of great revision sites and apps that you might find useful. BBC bitesize is still a great site and if you add in the topic and exam board e.g. circuits AQA science A, it will bring up the legacy site which is exam board/specification specific. If you just go in through the front screen it is more generic now than it used to be (but still good).

A quick search will also bring up lots of 'revision card' apps where you can either use pre made flash cards or develop your own (helps learning) and you can then test yourself or ask others. One recently recommended to us is <http://www.cram.com/>

Active Revision

This is the most effective type of revision and includes activities that involve creation in some way. This is more likely to help your memory than just reading notes and practicing questions. Examples include:

- Making Revision notes
- Making Revision cards
- Summarising topics within a word limit
- Creating questions
- Creating mark schemes
- Summarising key points from examiners reports
- Create a mind map
- Create your own audio revision podcast and then you can use it or share it with others
- Write down what you need to know for a past question – then find it out (don't concentrate on answers or answering)
- Often students listen to music when revising – maybe create a play list for a topic and then listen to this every time you revise the same topic to help with association.

Video clips / You Tube

These are a great way to get someone other than your teacher to explain a topic you are finding difficult. Again a lot of the clips are exam board specific so include this in your search e.g. circuits AQA Science A.

This is by no means an extensive list and it is worth trying things to find out what works for you.

Exam Dates – Final Exams – The real GCSEs

These are the exam dates as they stand at the moment. It is rare for these to change but please make sure that you use your individual exam timetable as the definitive guide to the dates and times of your exams.

Cohort	Qualification	Exam	Date
11x1 and 11y1 (triple)	OCR Biology GCSE	Biology Paper 1 (B1, B2, B3)	24 th May 2017
	OCR Biology GCSE	Biology Paper 2 (B4, B5, B6 and Section D)	16 th June 2017
	OCR Chemistry GCSE	Chemistry Paper 1 (C1, C2, C3)	9 th June 2017
	OCR Chemistry GCSE	Chemistry Paper 2 (C4, C5, C6 and Section D)	19 th June 2017
	OCR Physics GCSE	Physics Paper 1 (P1, P2, P3)	14 th June 2017
	OCR Physics GCSE	Physics Paper 2 (P4, P5, P6 and Section D)	21 st June 2017
11y3 and 11y4	AQA Science A GCSE	Biology unit 1	16 th May 2017
	AQA Science A GCSE	Chemistry unit 1	18 th May 2017
	AQA Science A GCSE	Physics unit 1	24 th May 2017
	AQA Additional Science GCSE	Biology unit 2	9 th June 2017
	AQA Additional Science GCSE	Chemistry unit 2	14 th June 2017
	AQA Additional Science GCSE	Physics unit 2	16 th June 2017
11x2, 11x3, 11x4 and 11y2	OCR Science B GCSE	Science Paper 1 (B1, C2, P1)	24 th May 2017
	OCR Science B GCSE	Science Paper 2 (B2, C2, P2 and Section D)	9 th June 2017
	OCR Additional Science GCSE	Additional Science Paper 1 (B3, C3, P3)	14 th June 2017
	OCR Additional Science GCSE	Additional Science Paper 2 (B4, C4, P4 and Section D)	16 th June 2017

Students on the OCR courses are reminded that there is a data handling/comprehension section – section D at the end of paper 2. These are often answered very effectively by students and I often recommend that students start here and then go back and answer the first three sections.

Mock Exams

For the mock exams the students are only undertaking certain papers. In the short term this is where revision should be focussed. The details of the papers for the mock exams are below.

Cohort	Qualification	Exam	Date
11x1 and 11y1 (triple)	OCR Biology GCSE	Biology Paper 2 (B4, B5, B6 and Section D)	Friday – 10 th March 2017
	OCR Chemistry GCSE	Chemistry Paper 2 (C4, C5, C6 and Section D)	Monday – 13 th March 2017
	OCR Physics GCSE	Physics Paper 2 (P4, P5, P6 and Section D)	Wednesday – 15 th March 2017
11y3 and 11y4	AQA Additional Science GCSE	Biology unit 2	Friday – 10 th March 2017
	AQA Additional Science GCSE	Chemistry unit 2	Monday – 13 th March 2017
	AQA Additional Science GCSE	Physics unit 2	Wednesday – 15 th March 2017

11x2, 11x3, 11x4 and 11y2	OCR Additional Science GCSE	Additional Science Paper 1 (B3, C3, P3)	Tuesday – 14 th March 2017
	OCR Additional Science GCSE	Additional Science Paper 2 (B4, C4, P4 and Section D)	Friday – 17 th March 2017

For 11x1 and 11y1 the mock grade for the Biology and Chemistry paper will only be calculated from the 4, 5 and section D parts of the papers – however, we would like the students to attempt the unit 6 section to give the best preparation for the summer.

If you are revising and there is anything you need help with or further explanation then just ask one of the science teachers and they will happily help.

Remember the best way to do revision is to... **do it!**

Yours sincerely



Mr B Garland
Head of Science