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23rd September 2026 WST/cg

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Change of GCSE Science Examination Board

I am writing to inform you of an important change to our GCSE Science provision for current Year 10 students.

It has come to our attention that some parents did not receive this letter on the first week of the academic year, we are therefore resending it.

Following a thorough review of our science curriculum and assessment arrangements, we have decided to move from the Edexcel GCSE Science specification to the AQA GCSE Science specification. As a result, Year 10 students will now follow the AQA course and will sit AQA GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11. This change has been under consideration for some time, as we have been carefully reviewing which specification would best support our students. The most recent GCSE results from summer 2026 have, however, provided further evidence to support the move, with the outcomes showing that students following the AQA specification have a stronger likelihood of achieving higher grades. These results have ultimately reinforced our belief that moving to AQA is the right decision and will provide our students with the best possible opportunity to achieve highly in their GCSE Science examinations.

I appreciate that any change to examination courses can raise questions and concerns. I would therefore like to reassure you that no learning time has been lost as a result of this transition.

The Science curriculum studied during Year 9 under the Edexcel scheme of work has complete overlap with the content required by AQA. Students are therefore not having to repeat or restart any areas of study and remain fully on track to complete the GCSE course successfully.

The decision to move to AQA was not taken lightly. After careful consideration, we believe that the AQA specification offers a number of advantages that will support student learning and achievement, including:

- Clear and accessible course structure.
- Straightforward examination questions.
- Excellent revision and support resources.
- Strong focus on scientific knowledge and practical skills.
- High-quality assessment and examiner guidance.
- Widely used and well-established specification – AQA is the most used nationally
- Extensive range of textbooks and online materials.
- Effective preparation for GCSE success.

Most importantly, we believe that the AQA specification provides the best platform for our students to develop their scientific understanding and achieve their full potential
Over the coming months, teachers will continue to support students carefully through the transition. Schemes of learning have been adapted to ensure that all required AQA content is covered in full, and regular assessments will allow us to monitor progress and provide any additional support where necessary.

We remain committed to providing the highest quality science education and are confident that this change will benefit our students both during their GCSE studies and in their future educational pathways.

Should you have any questions regarding this change, please do not hesitate to contact the Science Department.

Yours faithfully,

W Stevens

Mr William Stevens
Director of Science