



5th June 2023

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

Upper Five IGCSE Sciences

You will be aware that we run a Double award and Triple award course at GCSE. The Double award is two full GCSEs and students can still attain grade 9's, the highest possible GCSE grade. A good grade in either of the awards plus a good grade in Maths is a gateway for any of the science A-levels. Students on the Triple award programme will gain 3 specific Science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and do cover additional content. The relevant content for that Science subject is revisited during the Lower Sixth Science A-level courses.

We review all the sets after the Lower Five summer science examinations to ensure that students are in the most appropriate set for the Science award that best suits them. Based on the attainment of the year group in the three sciences in the recent summer examination, we are adjusting the sets so that Sets 1 and 2 will continue Triple award, students in set 3 will now take the Double award and set 4 will continue with the Double award.

As a result of this, there will also be some changes between the sets to maximise the students' chances of obtaining their highest potential grades. Students in sets 3 and 4 will have the same teaching time as sets 1 and 2 and will concentrate on the relevant core knowledge and understanding.

We have already spoken to the students and explained the changes to them. Your daughter will be told on Teams which set she will be in for next year later this week. We do not give this information out in the lesson in front of other students. If you and your daughter would like to explore the choice of set subsequently, and therefore award, I am happy to be contacted to discuss our evidence and reasoning behind this decision.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Marshall

Dr. Karen Marshall
Head of Science