



# Hinchingsbrooke School Science Department



Welcome to the Year 9 Science  
Information Evening

Please help yourself to refreshments

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# Hinchingsbrooke School Science Department



## Agenda

- 1) Introduction – what happens at KS4
- 2) The impact of linear examinations
- 3) The different routes through
- 4) Rationale for our recommendations
- 5) What happens next?
- 6) Any questions?

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# KS4 Science at Hinchingsbrooke

- From Y10, all students have ten 1 hour lessons a fortnight in Science.
- All of the courses consist of a mixture of Physics, Chemistry and Biology lessons.
- Whichever route the students follow, they have access to the higher or foundation papers or a combination of these and therefore access to the highest overall grades.
- The main differences between the routes through are the assessments and the amount of content in them.
- Teachers will be recommending a route through which they believe offers each student the best chance of success.

# Linear Exams

- From 2014 all GCSE assessments have to be terminal.
- This means that the entire assessment for a GCSE has to be taken during the same examination season.
- The impact of this ruling has a different impact on the different Science routes.
- There are no opportunities for resits of any of the GCSE modules on any course.
- Students can retake an entire course in some circumstances.

# Linear Exams: Summary

- The Science GCSE could be awarded in August 2015 or August 2016 – this will depend on the individual students.
- The Additional Science GCSE will be awarded in August 2016.
- BTEC First – Principles of Applied Science could be awarded in August 2015 or August 2016 – this will depend on the individual students.
- BTEC First – Application of Science will be awarded in August 2016.
- Physics, Chemistry and Biology GCSEs will be awarded in August 2016.

# Core and Additional Science GCSE (Double Science)

- Each GCSE follows a similar pattern.
- There are three 1 hour long exam papers (75%).
- There is a controlled assessment or ISA (25%).
- For the Science GCSE there is a Physics, Chemistry and a Biology module as well as a Science controlled assessment.
- Additional Science follows the same pattern as Science.

# Core and Additional Science GCSE (Double Science) – Structure 1

- There will be 3 exam papers per GCSE, 6 papers in total.
- As the students will complete their Science GCSE in year 10, they can sit the 3 exams for this in the Summer of 2015.
- These exams are taken over 3 sessions.
- Students will then study for the Additional Science course during year 11 and sit the 3 exams for this in the Summer of 2016.
- 1 Controlled Assessment will need to be finished for entry in April/May 2015 and a second Controlled Assessment will need to be submitted in April/May 2016.

# Core and Additional Science GCSE (Double Science) – Structure 2

- There will be 3 exam papers per GCSE, 6 papers in total.
- Students will sit all 6 exam papers during the Summer 2016 exam season.
- These exams are (usually) taken over 6 sessions.
- 1 piece of controlled assessment (per GCSE) will also be submitted in April 2016 – ie 2 in total.
- Students will usually complete 3-4 controlled assessments, with the best scores going forwards.



# Core and Additional Science GCSE (Double Science)

- School staff will make a decision on whether entry in 2015 or 2016 for the Science GCSE is in the best interests of each student early during Y10.
- Parents and carers will be informed by letter about the reasons for the decision.
- It is likely that different students/groups will have different examination timings because of this.

# Physics, Chemistry & Biology GCSE (Triple Science)

- Each GCSE follows a similar pattern.
- There are three 1 hour long exam papers (75%).
- There is a controlled assessment or ISA (25%).
- For the Physics GCSE there are 3 Physics modules and a Physics controlled assessment for example.
- Biology and Chemistry follow a similar pattern.

# Linear Exams: Triple Science

- There will be 3 exam papers per subject.
- This means that students will have to sit a total of 9 exam papers in Summer 2016.
- These exams are taken over 6 sessions.
- Module 1 papers are stand alone 1 hour papers.
- Module 2 and 3 papers are taken 'back-to-back' – paper 3 immediately follows paper 2.
- 3 separate controlled assessments also need to be ready for submission at this time.

# What is a BTEC?

- BTECs are work related qualifications suitable for a wide range of students.
- BTECs have been around for nearly 30 years and have a good reputation.
- They're built to accommodate the needs of employers and allow progression to university.
- They provide a practical, real-world approach to learning without sacrificing any of the essential subject theory.

# What is a BTEC?

- They're recognised by schools, colleges, universities , employers and professional bodies across the UK and in over 100 countries worldwide.
- They offer natural progression along a vocational path, from and to academic qualifications and university.
- BTEC qualifications are developed with key industry representatives and sector skills councils.
- BTEC Level 3 qualifications in Science will be available in the Sixth Form from September 2015.

# Principle of Applied Science

## Application of Science

### (BTEC Firsts)

- Each BTEC consists of 75% internal assessment – a coursework portfolio.
- There is an external exam worth 25% of the overall total.
- For the Principles of Applied Science BTEC the exam is 60 minutes (54 marks).
- For the Application of Science BTEC the exam is 75 minutes (60 marks).

# Principles of Applied Science

## Application of Science

### (BTEC Firsts)

- BTECs are awarded Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction\*
- Whilst not directly comparable, these grades are broadly equivalent to GCSE grades C, B, A, A\*
- It is likely students will need to achieve at least a Merit to move on to a Level 3 BTEC in the sixth form.
- The examinations are available more often (at the moment) compared to GCSE's.
- Students will sit these examinations once their teacher feels they are ready and could obtain their best results.

# Rationale

- Following the Y9 assessments, teachers will recommend a route through for your child which they believe will allow them to maximise their potential.
- This is based on a large number of factors including:
  - Performance in the Y9 exams
  - Homework and classwork
  - Work ethic
  - End-of-topic test scores
  - In some cases, attendance
  - Parental information – where provided.
- The key thing we consider is the route which will allow student the best chance of success.



# What happens next?

- Students continue working through their final KS3 modules.
- In late November/early December students will sit their end of KS3 assessments in Science.
- Teachers will select the most appropriate route through for each student and communicate this with parents.
- Students will move to their new groups in January.
- Students will start their new courses, possibly with a new teacher at the same time.
- In May/June a review of students will take place and any final adjustments made to the sets ready for September.

# Any Questions



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