

# The Hemel Hempstead School

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**Headteacher: Neil Hassell BEng (Hons) NPQH FRSA**

**Letter 14**

17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Year 10 Science 10X4 GCSE Pathway**

It has been a pleasure to welcome the students back to school and to start GCSE Sciences being able to complete at least some practical work. I would like to take this opportunity to explain the pathway your son/daughter will be following.

You may be aware of recent national changes within Science GCSE qualifications, in which options outside of the traditional two or three GCSE pathway have been phased out. For some students these pathways are not always suitable, but Government emphasis on new "Progress 8" measures mean it is generally favourable for students to at least attempt two Science GCSEs.

Progress through Key Stage 3 Science suggests some students may find GCSE Science difficult, so we have devised a programme to minimise the pressures of final examinations, while still allowing them to complete two GCSEs in Science. The programme will involve your son/daughter completing GCSE Physics this year and sitting the necessary exams this summer (2021). They will then be taught GCSE Biology next academic year, and sit the necessary exams the following summer (2022). Therefore, rather than sitting six 1h15m exams at the end of Year 11, the students will sit two 1h45m exams this year and two next year, and will not have to revise different Sciences for the same exam period. They will be taught Chemistry but will not necessarily be formally assessed in it; this decision can be made later on in the course and based on progress through the content. We hope this will ultimately lead to a greater chance of getting a good grade in these subjects.

The decision has been taken with students' best interests in mind, however if you have any questions, or would like any further information please contact me through the school's Parentmail email address.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Gilmore'.

**Ms J Gilmore**  
Head of Science