

The Hemel Hempstead School

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Letter 62

25th November 2021

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 child will be following.

Progress through Key Stage 3 Science suggests some students may find the demands of revising all elements of the Core GCSE Science at once very difficult, so we have devised a programme to minimise the pressures of final examinations, while still allowing them to gain two GCSEs in Science. The decision has been based on a lot of research and consultation with County experts which will provide the best possible outcomes for your child.

The programme will involve your child completing GCSE Physics this year and sitting the necessary exams this summer (2022). They will then be taught GCSE Biology next academic year, and sit the necessary exams the following summer (2023). 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; a decision as to whether they are assessed in it will 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 two good grades in science.

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. We will be in contact with you in Year 11 with an update.

Yours faithfully

Mrs D Harrison
Head of Science