



The COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL *Leftwich*

Achieving Excellence

Principal Mr M Snelson BSc (Hons), PGCE, MSc

February 2022

Year 9 Separate Science Option

Dear Parent/Carer,

This year, we are pleased to be able to offer the opportunity for **all** students to study **Separate Sciences** (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) which will provide three GCSEs. Most students will continue to study Combined Science – worth two GCSEs – which provides a clear pathway for Post 16, and the study of A level Sciences. However, for those students who have a particular interest in Science, this may be of interest.

There will be two Separate Science groups. One Separate Science Group will be an **Option** Group, for those students who decide to pick Science as one of their options. This will provide 15 lessons of Science. This Option group will only run if enough students opt for it.

One Separate Science Group will be an **Express** group who will be **invited** by Science staff to study Separate Science in the reduced time of 10 lessons, plus one lesson after school once a fortnight and the other lesson in place of one of the Core PE lessons. Students will be encouraged to create the time for physical exercise to replace the Core PE lesson, using the enrichment opportunities available. This route will provide an extra GCSE because no options are used so students will still choose two subjects.

Invitations for the Express group will be made based upon a student's **performance in the Year 9 ST2 exams**. Those results will provide evidence of whether students can manage with the pace and extra demand.

The Science exams are **earlier** than the other Y9 ST2 exams so that the results can be used to identify students who are suitable for the 'Express' Separate Science Group and to inform Option choices. Year 9 ST2 in Science will be completed during the week beginning the



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21st March, in classrooms. Year 9 ST2 for all other subjects will take place at the end of April and the beginning of May.

Science staff have ensured that students will have covered all of the content that will be assessed. Revision resources will be handed out before half-term and revision lessons are built in so that all students have the opportunity to be successful in their student tracking exams. Science teachers will go through arrangements with students during lessons.

The full Option process will start on Monday 14th March. Parent/carers will be invited in to school for a Year 9 Information Evening on **Tuesday 15th March** to meet with Subject Leaders. An online form with Option choices on will then need to be completed by Monday 28th March. Details of this event and the process will be sent out by Mr Carter, Assistant Principal, nearer the time.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R Warburton

Deputy Principal



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