

Our Ref: LD/KH/CM/Year 10 Changes

18th October 2019

Dear Parents of Year 10,



Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Year 10 changes to English Examination Board & Triple Science to Combined

I am writing to provide an update to you on the examination board which we use for GCSE English Language.

Using intelligence from my colleagues within the English department who have marked external examinations, the decision has been made to change the exam board for our GCSE English Language course of study. This decision has been made with the aim of maximising the results of our pupils.

I am aware that some parents have purchased revision guides that were written specifically for the exam board we have previously followed in English. I will ensure that any revision guides purchased to date are exchanged with guides that support pupils in the study of the AQA English Language GCSE specification 8700, which pupils will now study. These will be issued to pupils who have previously purchased guides.

During Key Stage 4, pupils will experience set changes that will be made in response to their achievement in assessments and over time. At the end of year 10, pupils will sit a series of mock examinations which may also be used to determine set changes. Any changes are responsive to children's needs and informed by data.

Changes will also occur in Science where we are moving away from the whole cohort studying single sciences as GCSE results in recent years have shown that children do not make the expected progress in the single Sciences. Consequently, pupils were entered for Foundation tier but did not successfully achieve a grade 4. Therefore indicating that the combined route is more appropriate.

Pupils who move to study Combined Science will be assessed in all three of the Sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They will be awarded two GCSEs at the end of the course and will be assessed in the same number of exams; two for each Science.

The content covered in Combined Science is approximately two thirds of the amount of that studied in Triple Science. Pupils can still access up to a grade 9. Higher and Foundation tiers are available. Decisions about tiers for both routes will be informed by pupil performance in mock examinations in year 11. The Higher tier content on Combined Science is comparable to the Higher tier content of the Triple Single Sciences and will appropriately challenge pupils.

The Combined GCSE is accepted in applications to our 6th Form where currently pupils who wish to study a Science at A-Level must achieve a grade 6 or above in two Sciences. In addition, to study Physics, pupils must gain a grade 7 in Maths GCSE.

I will write to you in due course separately with regard to which route your child will follow if they currently study Triple Science. No decisions have been made yet. Decisions will be made when further data has been collected from assessments.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's Head of House.

Yours sincerely

Ms L Draycott
Headteacher



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