



Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Update from the Science Department

I hope that this letter finds you well following the summer break. We are pleased to welcome your child back to Science lessons this year and we would like to take this opportunity to let you know of some exciting changes taking place within the department.

We are joined this year by a strong team of teachers specialising in Science:

- Mrs Sweeney remains as Head of Science.
- Mr Mitchell Bunce remains with us this year as Head of Physics.
- Mr Pratt begins his new role as Head of Biology.
- Mr Sandars joins us as Head of Chemistry.
- Mrs Parry remains with us as Teacher of Science.
- Miss Willis remains with us as Teacher of Science alongside her responsibilities as SENDCO.
- Mr Lovibond joins us as Teacher of Science.
- In addition, we are thrilled to have the support of Mr Bateman within the team as a further Teacher of KS3 Science alongside his responsibilities as the Deputy Head Teacher.

Just as a reminder, please do feel free to get in contact with us - your child's Science teacher should be your first point of contact for any queries relating to the subject, however, please do feel free to email me at any point.

We are making some changes to our teaching and learning this year and have been very busy over the last few months preparing everything for September. The biggest change that we hope you and your child will find really helpful is that we are providing booklets containing all the core knowledge for each lesson in each unit, along with questions to support their learning both in school and at home. **Students must bring their booklets to every Science lesson, but they will also need them at home as we expect them to be used for revision.**

To support students in taking care of their booklets, we are providing them with a document wallet to keep them safe in their bags. We have high expectations of all our students and as these are vital learning resources. We will issue C1s for lack of equipment if they forget their booklets, since this is a part of their required equipment for Science. If a student loses their booklet and / or wallet, we will ask you to pay a small fee to replace it. We will contact you if this is required. The wallet will remain with students to use until they finish Year 11, so it is important that they look after it.



Homework will continue to be set on Carousel to support retrieval. We will also continue to have the expectation that students prepare for their homework quizzes actively before taking the quiz, using the flashcards provided. They will need to reach a minimum score of 70% in order for the homework to be marked as completed. As usual, H1s will be issued where homework is not completed, and you will be able to track this on the My Child at School app.

In addition to homework, we are also going to provide more support for students in learning how to revise for tests and exams so that they are more prepared and retain more knowledge over longer periods of time. The booklets each contain a series of questions at the back, which we expect students to complete before their end of unit tests. They are welcome (and advised) to do these little and often throughout the unit, rather than the night before the test! Students will all be introduced to the 3 steps to revision in lessons where we will show them exactly how to use the resources provided to get the best outcomes.

Where you might have concerns about gaps in learning, please rest assured that as a team we have looked carefully at our curriculum and at the start of each unit of work we have included a 'prior knowledge review' which will enable their new teacher to identify gaps and address them before moving on with new learning. If you think your child is struggling with the work set at home, please do let us know as soon as possible so we can support them effectively in school.

We are really excited about our new resources and hope you will share your enthusiasm with your child to support them at home in being organised for lessons and prepared for assessments.

If you have any questions or concerns please do get in touch - we are always happy to help and are keen to give your child the support they need in Science this year.

Thank you, as always for your support,

Kind regards,

Mrs E Sweeney
Subject Leader of Science