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Hand into your tutor no later than

**Tuesday 23 April 2019**

Dear Year 8 Student,

This year you have to make the first important choices about your future. Firstly, we are asking you to choose the subjects you would like to study within the Business & Enterprise and Arts faculties in Year 9. This is an opportunity for you to tailor your curriculum towards your areas of interest in these faculties. Secondly, you need to start thinking about whether you would like to study the Combined Science GCSE (worth two GCSEs) or three separate science GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics in Years 10 and 11.

Everyone will be following the same standard curriculum provision in Year 9:

Subject	Periods per Fortnight
English	6
Maths	6
Science	6
French and/or Spanish*	6
Geography	3
History	3
Computing	2
Core RS	2
Core PE	4

\*Top set Language students will study both French and Spanish, with some able to study a language of their choosing through the Language Futures project which will be explained to you later in the year.

We strongly feel that all students should follow a broad and balanced curriculum and as a result you must choose **at least one subject from each faculty** in your four choices. We are asking you to **choose four subjects** from the eight available below. You will have three hours per fortnight for each of these subjects. Please note that if you do not choose a subject in Year 9, you may not select it in your final options for Years 10 and 11.

Arts	Business & Enterprise
Music Art & Design Drama Dance	Food & Nutrition Design & Technology Engineering Business Studies

We also need to know if you would like to be considered for triple science. Triple science (three separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics) is taught over 12 periods per fortnight in Years 10 and 11. The alternative pathway is combined science (worth two GCSEs covering all three science disciplines) and this is taught over 10 periods per fortnight in Years 10 and 11. The science department will advise and guide you throughout the remainder of Year 8 and the start of Year 9, and make the final decision on which pathway you will follow by the end of Year 9. This is very similar to the setting used in English and maths, although the two extra lessons needed for triple science will come from the core PE time in Year 10 and 11.

It is very important that you take the process very seriously and that you gather as much information as you can about the subjects you might be interested in taking. Think carefully about what is said in the options assemblies. Read carefully all the information your teachers have given you in this

booklet. You should make sure that you discuss your options with your parents, your teachers and your form tutor – listen to good advice.

If you already have a career you are considering, look at what the subject requirements are to ensure you are not dropping a subject that could be important in your future.

This is the first of two stages in your options process. The second stage happens in Year 9 when you will select your final Key Stage 4 options from your current courses with some additional choices, which are currently Statistics and Health & Social Care. It will not be possible to study both Design & Technology and Engineering at GCSE due to the nature of these courses, although this should not put you off selecting them both in Year 9 to see which one you prefer.

You will have assemblies from the faculties outlining the subjects and what they involve. Also, your subject teachers will share information with you about their subjects, including information about the new subjects that you have not studied before, in your lessons.

**Availability of courses:** We will do our best to ensure that you are able to study your top 4 choices, but this may not always be possible because of timetabling constraints. You may have to study subjects that were not in your top 4 choices. If this happens, we will talk to you to make sure that you are happy with the final combination of subjects. I intend to be able to inform you of the outcome of the options process in late June/early July.



Tim Darby  
Deputy Principal – Curriculum  
March 2019

### **Important Dates in the Process**

<b>Monday 4 March</b>	Introduction Assembly - Hall
<b>Wednesday 6 March</b>	Parents' Information Evening
<b>Wednesday 13 March</b>	Business & Enterprise Assembly - WCR
<b>Thursday 14 March</b>	Arts Assembly - WCR
<b>Tuesday 23 April</b>	Deadline for handing in completed forms. If you miss this deadline you may miss out on your preferred subjects.

# Art & Design

## What will I study?

Art in year 9 is about developing your creative skills in an enjoyable yet challenging way. The course consists of a series of exciting and varied mini workshops where you will begin to develop the skills, methods and approaches expected at GCSE level. You will start to build knowledge about and develop opinions on a range of artists and art movements. You will be able to experiment with different materials, styles and approaches including paint, print, 3D materials and photography.

You will learn how to look and draw in a variety of challenging ways, so an open mind and determination will be needed. You will be required to keep a sketchbook/journal to encourage you to develop your individual interests as well as completing classwork and home learning.



## Where can I go with this subject?

There are dozens of art-related courses beyond Key Stage 4, from "A" levels in specific art disciplines to practical/vocational courses and diplomas. Many students find that art supports a wide range of other subject areas as it builds independence, creativity and develops problem-solving skills. Students could go on to pursue degrees, higher diplomas or move straight into the workplace. Future career paths could include photography, film and theatre design, fashion, hair and beauty, art therapy, architecture, industrial design, animation, teaching, engineering, interior design, gallery and museum management and art practitioner. For a more exhaustive list see Ms McGrath or your Art teacher.

## Who will this course suit?

This course will suit students who are hard-working, independent, creative, curious, practical, patient, determined and adaptable. A high level of drawing ability is an advantage but not essential:



a willingness to get involved and really work at developing your skills is of the utmost importance.

Good organisation is something to be developed if it is lacking now, as it is central to the whole course! Students interested in any creative career would find art very rewarding although the problem-solving skills, independence and resilience developed would be an asset in any course of study or career.

# Business

## What will I study?

- How to be the next Levi Roots or Alan Sugar – release the entrepreneur in you!
- The art of finance – learn the skills now which will serve you a lifetime.
- Looking at business from ‘real world’ organisations.
- Review current business stories.
- Build your understanding of marketing and branding.



## Where can I go with this subject?

You will learn more about how small businesses are developed and discover how businesses promote themselves through marketing and keep their customers happy. You will learn how businesses manage both their finances and the people who work for them. The business environment will form a key part of the course, especially focused on how businesses respond to changes and develop new products and services

A GCSE Business course could unleash the entrepreneur in you or lead to work in a business related profession such as accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry. This business course can help you prepare for further and higher education such as AS/A2 Levels in Business Studies and Economics, as well as vocational and technical awards post 16. You will become skilled in making decisions, being creative, solving problems, understanding finance, dealing with data, communicating and working as part of a team.

## Who will this course suit?

If you enjoy:

- communicating and explaining your ideas;
- thinking creatively and making decisions;
- working with numbers to solve business problems;
- learning about the world of business through research and investigation, as well as through practical investigations.

Everything in life involves Business. Think about that new top you bought last week and then think of what businesses made it possible for you to be wearing it right now? The obvious ones are the **Shop** and the **Manufacturing plant** but what about the **Cotton growers?** The **Label makers?** The **Delivery Company?** **Health & Safety?** Even the companies that manage the **finances** of all those businesses. Thinking about all those processes and people allows you begin to understand what studying business is all about.

# Dance

## What will I study?

Dance is an exhilarating and exciting way to convey ideas through different dance techniques and styles. There are three main areas of development in Year 9, in preparation for GCSE Dance.

- **Dance technique and performance** – you will look at exploring and developing your technical ability in dance, through contemporary dance and other dance styles.
- **Choreography** – you will learn the art of creating dances, from initial stimulus and dance intention through to how you use music, develop ideas, and use choreographic devices to make interesting and exciting dances.
- **Appreciation** – you will begin to learn about how professional choreographers create dances, by studying two professional dance works. You will learn the processes of how choreographers create dances and work with composers, costume, lighting and set designers to stage a dance piece.



## Where can I go with this subject?

Once you have completed Year 9, you will learn different dance techniques in greater depth to develop your technical and performance skills, more sophisticated choreography and appreciate professional dance works in the Dance Anthology. You will learn a range of dance styles, choreographic approaches and learn about what professional dance choreographers do to realise their artistic vision.

After GCSE Dance, many of the local sixth form colleges offer AS and A Level Dance and Performing Arts. Dance diploma and degree courses have developed at universities and dance conservatoires such as Roehampton University, Trinity Laban and London Contemporary Dance School. Other well-known vocational colleges such as Bodyworx, Bird College, London Studio Centre and Performers College offer performance training. Alternatively, students who have studied GCSE Dance may wish to train to deliver dance as a community dance practitioner or aerobics instructor.

## Who will this course suit?

Dance is an art form that anyone can access and the subject requires you to be physically active and creative. You should be open-minded and willing to learn new dance approaches. If you like choreography, working with others, trying different dance styles, developing new performance skills or learning about different choreographers then Year 9 Dance is for you.

# Design & Technology

## What will I study?

Year 9 Design & Technology forms a foundation year to the GCSE, building up your knowledge and skills in preparation for the course in years 10 and 11 if you chose to continue. You will learn how to work through creative, iterative processes to produce suitable design solutions. This means identifying what research needs to be carried out, developing new practical skills and learning about modern manufacturing practices. Working through these processes also means you will develop key employability skills needed for any industry in today's world.

The creative, engineering and technological institutions in the UK are major, world leading employers and it is they who are going to create the solutions to the majority of the problems facing our society. However, to do that, they need to be able to recruit creative, talented, skilled and knowledgeable employees which is what our Design & Technology course encourages in our students.

## Where can I go with this subject?

Our GCSE is certainly the perfect stepping stone onto A-Level design courses such as the Product Design and Architecture A-Levels available at local colleges, and certainly onto other similar courses such as engineering, electronics, fashion and apprenticeships in any these areas.

Possible career paths from this course could include:

- **Design careers:** Product Design, Graphic Design, Industrial Design, Eco Design...
- **Aerospace and Defence careers:** e.g. Aerodynamicists...
- **Agricultural careers:** Product developers, Landscape Designers, Environmental Conservation...
- **Automotive careers:** e.g. Automotive Engineers...
- **Construction:** Civil Engineer...
- **Electronics:** Project Engineers...
- **Healthcare:** Product developers - to design and develop medical equipment...

## Who will this course suit?

You will enjoy this course if you like to follow a project through from conception to production. You should enjoy the practical side of the project and have the desire to produce a quality product with the research and organisation that this requires.



# Drama

## What will I study?

The aim with Year 9 Drama is to allow students to experience all the elements of GCSE drama. We start the year looking at **characterisation**, with students aiming to develop their ability to create fully realised, detailed characters. Students then study a **Theatre Practitioner** and are encouraged to realise how theatre can challenge, educate and provoke an audience, rather than just entertaining them.



Students are also given the opportunity to **study a play** in more detail. Within this unit, students will look at **style** and **genre**, and will experience what it means to work as an **ensemble**. Students will **watch a filmed play** and evaluate the effectiveness of the visual elements of the production, like set design and lighting. Finally, students will learn about **building tension** through devising their own theatre from a given stimulus in groups, followed by studying the play **Woman in Black**.

## Where can I go with this subject?

Beyond GCSE drama there are further courses available, including Theatre Studies at AS and A2 Level and BTEC National Performing Arts (Acting). There are numerous different opportunities for careers varying from acting to stage management to technical skills.

GCSE Drama is a course that builds on many life skills essential for most careers, such as communication, collaboration, empathy and creativity. It is also brilliant at developing confidence and helps students with public speaking.

## Who will this course suit?

If you enjoy the following then this course is right for you:

- Expressing yourself in an active and exciting way
- Working in a group
- Contributing your ideas and taking on board those of others
- Exploring ideas by putting yourself in other people's shoes
- Playing many parts in different imaginary situations
- Creating your own drama work
- Looking at plays written by other people.

# Engineering

## What will I study?

Year 9 will form the foundation year to the Engineering GCSE, building up your knowledge and skills in preparation for the course in years 10 and 11 if you chose to continue. You will complete a range of learning tasks that link directly into the course specification. These are mainly what we call design and make tasks where you will be required to research topics that help you to develop engineered solutions. In doing so you will learn new manufacturing skills and to use new manufacturing technologies used in the world of engineering.

The creative, engineering and technological industries in the UK are major, world leading employers and it is they who are going to create the solutions to the majority of the problems facing our society. However, to do that, they need to be able to recruit creative, talented, skilled and knowledgeable employees which is what courses such as this will prepare students for.

## Where can I go with this subject?

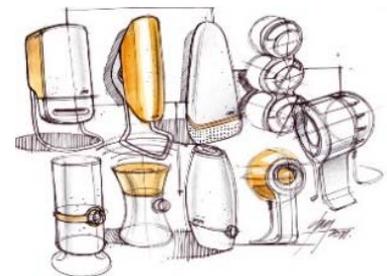
Our GCSE is certainly a good path onto A-Level, BTEC and NVQ courses in this field that are available at colleges locally and nationally, and certainly onto other similar courses such as more design related and electronics. Apprenticeships are also a very worthy path to choose where you can get paid to train in a subject you love straight from school.

Possible career paths from this course could include:

- **Traditional Engineering careers:** Construction/Civil Engineering, Design Engineering, Industrial Design, Research and Development (R&D) Engineering, Electrical Engineers, Automotive Engineering, Manufacturing...
- **Aerospace and Defence careers:** Aerodynamicists, Aerospace Engineering...
- **Agricultural careers:** Product developers, Environmental Conservation...
- **Healthcare:** Product developers - to design and develop medical equipment...

## Who will this course suit?

If you are interested in a career in engineering or in a similar industry, this course is ideal. It is a specialist, work-related qualification for students who are interested in a career in this sector, providing education and training specifically in the areas of Engineering Research and Development, Engineering Design, Maintenance and Engineering Manufacture.



# Food & Nutrition

## What will I study?

The aim of the Food & Nutrition course is to equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and to apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

### Food and Nutrition:

Students will build on their KS3 skills and gain a greater understanding of food provenance, where food comes from and how it's grown, reared or caught, the processes involved in farm-to-fork. Students will increase their nutritional understanding through better knowledge of vitamins and minerals, where they come from and how it affects our bodies. The guidelines and functions for a healthy diet and nutritional needs depending on life stage.

### Cooking and food preparation:

Students will understand why food is cooked and be able to choose the appropriate method. They will also look at the functional and chemical properties of ingredients.

This will include: making sauces, setting hot and cold mixtures, use of raising agents, making doughs and puff pastry, to name a few.

## Where can I go with this subject?

The obvious next step is the GCSE course, but beyond that there are numerous post-16 courses and apprenticeships for you to choose from. There are a vast range of careers that this could lead including: Nutritionist, Product Development, Chef/Baker, Food Journalist/Critic/Blogger, Environmental Health Officer, Health & Safety Inspector, Food Service Management, Delicatessen/Restaurateur, Food Wholesaler, Production & Manufacturing, Quality Assurance, Purchaser (buys and sells food from around the world), Teacher (clearly the best career....) all have links with some of the material you will study. Alternatively, you may wish to consider a work-related course. Employment opportunities are endless. Food Technology is one of the world's fastest growing industries. In fact over 20% of the top 100 British Companies are in food manufacturing.

## Who will this course suit?

If you have an interest in the food industry or enjoy creating meals and menus, or just want to be able to cook this course is for you. There are opportunities to prepare and cook your own dishes as well as prepare your for leading a healthy independent life when you leave home.



# Music

## What will I study?

Music in Year 9 is packed with activities that will continue to develop your understanding and enjoyment of music.

The course has a very strong practical element and in every lesson you will be performing or creating music. You will be exposed to a wide range of different styles and genres, with assignments ranging from composing your own section of a Baroque concerto to creating a film score for a James Bond trailer.

During the course of the year, you will perform a range of music and develop your musical literacy and ensemble performing skills. You will also have the opportunity to develop your vocal skills through singing. You will compose individually or in small groups, using computers if you wish. Finally you will listen to music of various genres and be taught how to listen carefully and analytically and respond with musical terminology.



## Where can I go with this subject?

The UK is the world's biggest consumer of music per capita and the British music industry offers a vast range of opportunities.

In reality though, most people who study music even at university level go on to pursue a wide range of different careers. Employers are often pleased to see music on an application form because musicians can work in teams, they can self-manage, communicate effectively, solve problems and have good business and customer awareness.

## Who will this course suit?

This course will suit anybody who enjoys music and is ready to be challenged to further develop their skills as a performer, composer or listener.



# Science – AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

## What will I study?

Your AQA science courses emphasise scientific literacy and the knowledge and understanding which you will need to engage, as informed citizens, with science-based issues. The courses cover contemporary, relevant contexts of interest to students which we will approach through a range of teaching and learning activities.

**Biology** subject content includes:

B1 Cell Biology	B5 Homeostasis and response
B2 Organisation	B6 Inheritance, variation and evolution
B3 Infection and Response	B7 Ecology
B4 Bioenergetics	

**Chemistry** subject content includes:

C8 Atomic structure and the periodic table	C13 The rate and extent of chemical change
C9 Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter	C14 Organic chemistry
C10 Quantitative chemistry	C15 Chemical analysis
C11 Chemical changes	C16 Chemistry of the atmosphere
C12 Energy changes	C17 Using resources

**Physics** subject content includes:

P18 Energy	P22 Forces
P19 Electricity	P23 Waves
P20 Particle Model of matter	P24 Magnetism and electromagnetism
P21 Atomic Structure	

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

You will develop the skills and knowledge gained in Key Stage 3 by:

- Gaining scientific knowledge, and the skills you need to apply it in a variety of domestic, industrial and environmental settings;
- Understanding scientific ideas and how they are formed. Also learning how scientific ideas can be limited;
- Considering and evaluating your own results and conclusions, and those you get from other sources, using ICT when you need to;
- Evaluating the benefits and drawbacks of scientific and technological developments, including those related to the environment, personal health and quality of life, and considering ethical issues where these arise;
- Selecting, organising and presenting information clearly and logically, using appropriate scientific words and methods;

## How will I be assessed?

You will sit six examinations:

Paper 1 in **Biology** (16.7%) (Topics B1-B4) Written exam 1hour 15 minutes

Paper 2 in **Biology** (16.7%) (Topics B5-B7) Written exam 1hour 15 minutes

Paper 1 in **Chemistry** (16.7%) (Topics C8-C12) Written exam 1hour 15 minutes

Paper 2 in **Chemistry** (16.7%) (Topics C13-C17) Written exam 1hour 15 minutes

Paper 1 in **Physics** (16.7%) (Topics P18-P21) Written exam 1hour 15 minutes

Paper 2 in **Physics** (16.7%) (Topics P22-P24) Written exam 1hour 15 minutes



## Where can I go with this qualification?

If you take **Combined Science higher papers** you can take Science A levels at any of the local schools and colleges.

If you take **Combined Science foundation papers** and achieve the grades you need, you can take a Vocational Sciences course.

## Who will this course suit?

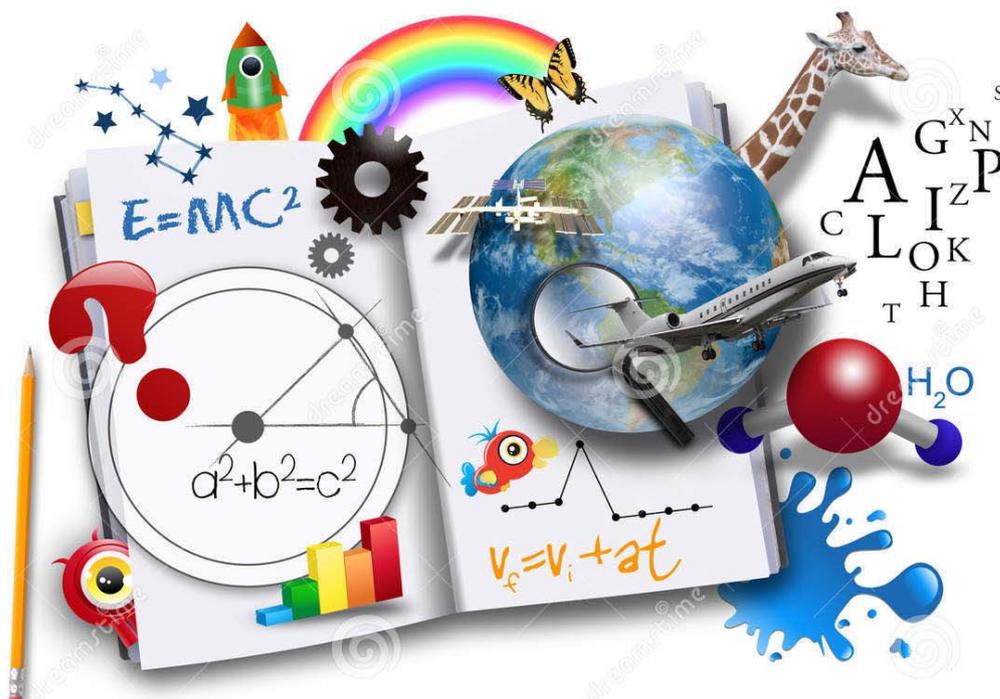
We have carefully designed our Double Science course so that most of you could benefit from and enjoy completing it. This is a core subject and will be studied by those students who have not been selected for Triple Science.

Exam Board & Specification

Course Code: AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (8464)

QAN: 601/8758/X

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>



# Science – Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)

## What will I study?

You will study three separate GCSEs in **Biology, Chemistry** and **Physics**.

Your AQA science courses emphasise scientific literacy and the knowledge and understanding which you will need to engage, as informed citizens, with science-based issues. The courses cover contemporary, relevant contexts of interest to students which we will approach through a range of teaching and learning activities.

**Biology** subject content includes:

B1 Cell Biology	B5 Homeostasis and response
B2 Organisation	B6 Inheritance, variation and evolution
B3 Infection and Response	B7 Ecology
B4 Bioenergetics	B8 Key ideas

**Chemistry** subject content includes:

C1 Atomic structure and the periodic table	C6 The rate and extent of chemical change
C2 Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter	C7 Organic chemistry
C3 Quantitative chemistry	C8 Chemical analysis
C4 Chemical changes	C9 Chemistry of the atmosphere
C5 Energy changes	C10 Using resources

**Physics** subject content includes:

P1 Energy	P5 Forces
P2 Electricity	P6 Waves
P3 Particle Model of matter	P7 Magnetism and electromagnetism
P4 Atomic Structure	P8 Space Physics

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

You will develop the skills and knowledge gained in Key Stage 3 by:

- Acquiring a systematic body of scientific knowledge, and the skills needed to apply this in new and changing situations in a range of domestic, industrial and environmental contexts;
- Acquiring an understanding of scientific ideas, of how they develop, of the factors which may affect their power, and of their limitations;
- Considering and evaluating critically your own data and conclusions, and those obtained from other sources, using ICT where appropriate;
- Evaluating, in terms of your scientific knowledge and understanding and your understanding of the processes of scientific enquiry and the nature of scientific knowledge, the benefits and drawbacks of scientific and technological developments, including those related to the environment, personal health and quality of life, and considering ethical issues where these arise;
- Selecting, organising and presenting information clearly and logically, using appropriate scientific terms and conventions, and ICT where appropriate;

## How will I be assessed?

Higher tier exams in each of the three GCSEs

**Biology** - Your exams will be:

Paper 1 in Biology (50%) (Topics B1-B4) Written exam 1hour 45 minutes

Paper 2 in Biology (50%) (Topics B5-B8) Written exam 1hour 45 minutes

**Chemistry** - Your exams will be:

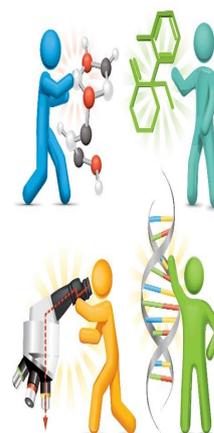
Paper 1 in Chemistry (50%) (Topics C1-C5) Written exam 1hour 45 minutes

Paper 2 in Chemistry (50%) (Topics C6-C10) Written exam 1hour 45 minutes

**Physics** - Your exams will be:

Paper 1 in Physics (50%) (Topics P1-P4) Written exam 1hour 45 minutes

Paper 2 in Physics (50%) (Topics P5-P8) Written exam 1hour 45 minutes



## Where can I go with this qualification?

As long as you achieve the grades needed on the higher tier papers, you can take Science A levels at any of the local schools and colleges.

## Who will this course suit?

If you are currently in 8a1 or 8b1 you will be particularly well suited to Triple Science. You might want to choose Triple if you are particularly interested in science or if you think you might want to take any science subjects at AS or A level. There are a limited number of places for this course. Selection is based on grades achieved across KS3 module tests, and the end of KS3 tests sat at the end of January. Approach to your learning in lessons across KS3 is also considered when making the final selection.

Exam Board & Specification

Course Code: AQA GCSE Biology (8461)

QAN: 601/8752/9

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461>

Course Code: AQA GCSE Chemistry (8462)

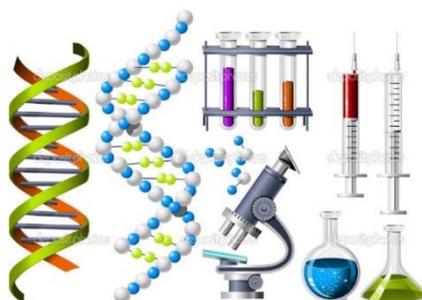
QAN: 601/8757/8

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462>

Course Code: AQA GCSE Physics (8463)

QAN: 601/8751/7

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463>





# Year 8 into 9 Option Choices

Return to your form tutor no later than **TUESDAY 23 APRIL 2019**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Tutor:</b>
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Please place the subjects in your overall preference order, from 1-4.

Make sure you use each number only once.

Make sure you have chosen subjects from both faculties.

Remember: if you do not study a subject in Year 9 you cannot opt for it in Years 10 and 11.

		Preference Order
<b>Business &amp; Enterprise</b>	Business	
	Design & Technology	
	Engineering	
	Food & Nutrition	
<b>Arts</b>	Art	
	Dance	
	Drama	
	Music	

Please tick if you would like to be considered for the triple science pathway. *The final decision on which pathway you will follow will be made in the summer term of Year 9 by the science department.*

Please consider me for the <b>Triple Science</b> pathway	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Post-16 Plans?** Please indicate post-16 routes or careers you are considering at this stage.

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Carer

Note: Every effort will be made to give you your 4 choices, but should it not be possible for any reason, we will discuss the alternatives available to you.