

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Science Exam Entry Update 2018

As you may be aware, there have been significant changes to both the science curriculum and the means by which it is assessed. These changes were introduced in 2016 in readiness for first assessment during summer 2018.

During this time, the Science Department at Ripley has delivered Science as three separate subjects (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) in order to identify which entry route is the most appropriate for individual students. The AQA has, over this time, released more information and assessment material which has further informed this decision.

In December 2017, the exam board released the first secure assessment material which has been used to assess Year 11 students during the recent mock examination period. The outcome and the afore-mentioned additional information regarding assessment of the GCSE sciences has enabled us to confirm the most appropriate exam entry route for your child.

The entry routes for GCSE Science 2018 are:

<u>Set</u>	<u>Entry Route</u>
T	Separate Sciences Higher Tier
H	Separate Sciences Higher Tier
O	Separate Sciences Higher Tier
M	Combined Science Higher Tier
A	Combined Science Higher Tier
R	Combined Science Higher Tier
I	Combined Science Foundation Tier
P	Combined Science Foundation Tier
L	Combined Science Foundation Tier
E	Combined Science Foundation Tier

Believe.....

FAQ

How many GCSE grades is Combined Science equivalent to?

Combined science leads to a double-award grade e.g. 7 7, 6 6, etc. This is the equivalent of 2 GCSE qualifications.

Can my child study science at A level if he/she follows a Combined Science route?

Yes, A levels are designed to follow on from a Combined Science route. However, the entry requirements for individual sciences still apply.

What is the highest award offered through a foundation route?

Foundation entry offers grades 1-5. 5 is considered a good pass (old grade C/B). However, many colleges accept 4 as a pass (old grade C).

What grades are available through a higher exam entry route?

Higher entries offer grades 4-9.

Will the revision guides purchased still apply?

Yes. Separate Science revision guides contain the same content as Combined Science. However, not all topics will be assessed. Staff will inform students which topics will not be examined.

Any concerns or queries regarding the exam entry routes should be discussed with your child's class teacher at parents' evening in the first instance. Further queries should be addressed to either Miss R Harding (Assistant Science Leader) or Miss A Sutton (Science Leader).

Yours faithfully

Miss A Sutton
Subject Leader Science