



Sir Harry Smith Community College

September 2014

Year 7 Science at Sir Harry Smith Community College

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to give you information regarding your son/daughters Science Education in Year 7. Here in the Sir Harry Smith Science Department we love Science and we're hoping to make sure that your children do too. This is why our emphasis in Year 7 is on what it means to be a scientist and how to explore and investigate ideas in Science.

Baseline Assessment

At the beginning of Year 7 students will carry out a baseline assessment comprising of a complete key stage 2 SATs assessment and some practical tasks. These will give us a clear idea of the level your child is currently working at and will allow us to accurately track their progress over the year. Science at Secondary School is very different to Primary School with a much greater emphasis on investigation. This is why we focus on investigation during Year 7 and it is also why start levels of the students in Year 7 are often below their key stage 2 SATs results.

Structure of the Course

Following on from the baseline assessment students will begin studying lots of new and exciting topics. We teach Science in Year 7 as a combined course although the topics tend to be based around Biology, Physics or Chemistry. At the end of each topic students will complete an assessment. The results of these assessments will be reported home via regular progress checks. Here is a brief outline of the topics taught in year 7:

Unit	Title
1.1	Cells, the building blocks of life
1.2	Eating, drinking and breathing
1.3	Mixing, dissolving and separating
1.4	Elements, compounds and reactions
1.5	Forces and their effects
1.6	Energy transfers and sound
2.2	Looking at plants and ecosystems
2.3	Explaining physical changes
2.4	Explaining chemical changes

Supporting Learning outside the Classroom

This year we are introducing the use of a new interactive website (www.doddlelearn.co.uk) for all students, which can be accessed on any computer and will support all students in their learning. Each student will be given an individual login, which will be stuck in their planners, and the teachers will set individual homework tasks for each student to complete. Students will be given instant feedback when they complete each homework task and the result will be recorded, allowing teachers to track each student's progress. The website also gives students access to many other resources, including presentations, quizzes and video clips, to help support students with their Science learning outside the classroom. We hope that you will encourage your son/daughter to use the Ddoddle Learn website to its full capacity and that it may also be a useful tool for you enabling you to become more involved in your child's science education.

Extra-curricular Activities

We offer a Year 7 and 8 Science club for students after school once a week; this is a great opportunity for students to get lots of extra hands on experience in the laboratory.

I hope you have found this information useful. If you have any further questions or queries now or at any stage during the year please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Roughley
Curriculum Manager for Science