



# Sir Harry Smith Community College

September 2014

## Year 8 Science at Sir Harry Smith Community College

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to give you information about your son/daughter's Science Education in Year 8.

### Structure of the Course

We teach Science in Year 8 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 8:

Unit	Title
2.1	Getting the energy your body needs
2.5	Exploring contact and non-contact forces
2.6	Magnetism and electricity
3.1	Variation for survival
3.2	Our health and the effects of drugs
3.3	Obtaining useful materials
3.4	Using our Earth sustainably
3.5	Motion on Earth and in Space
3.6	Waves and energy transfer

### Supporting Learning outside the Classroom

This year we are introducing the use of a new interactive website ([www.doddlelearn.co.uk](http://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 children to use the Doodle 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 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.

### Moving towards GCSE Science

Our intention is for our Year 8 students to complete Key Stage 3 at the end of the Year 8 and begin GCSE level work at the beginning of Year 9. Please be aware that each assessment in Year 8 is very important and may impact on your son/daughter's choices and options during their Science Education. Half-way through Year 8 we will be re-setting the students using their assessment results from the first three assessment points.

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