



Sir Harry Smith Community College

September 2014

Year 9 Science at Sir Harry Smith Community College

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to give you information about your child's Science education this year.

All Year 9 students will start their Key Stage 4, GCSE level, science at the beginning of the year. For the first two terms students will be taught Biology and Physics only and for the third term they will be taught Chemistry.

Year 10 and beyond

At the end of Year 9 all students will sit a GCSE style exam that covers all three science subjects. The results from this exam, alongside assessment data collected during the year, will be used to decide which route through GCSE level study will best suit each individual student.

Those that achieve the highest grades will follow the **accelerated triple science** programme, and will achieve three Science GCSEs by the end of Year 11 in the separate sciences **Biology, Chemistry and Physics**.

All other students will follow the **double science** programme and will achieve two combined science GCSEs by the end of year 11; **Science A and Additional Science**.

Due to the decisions made at the end of Year 9 it is very important for all students that they work as hard as they can to achieve their full potential during Year 9. This will ensure they are able to follow the route through their GCSE qualifications that is best suited to them.

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 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 be involved in your child's science education.

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