GCSE Combined or Separate Sciences

Examination Board: EDEXCEL
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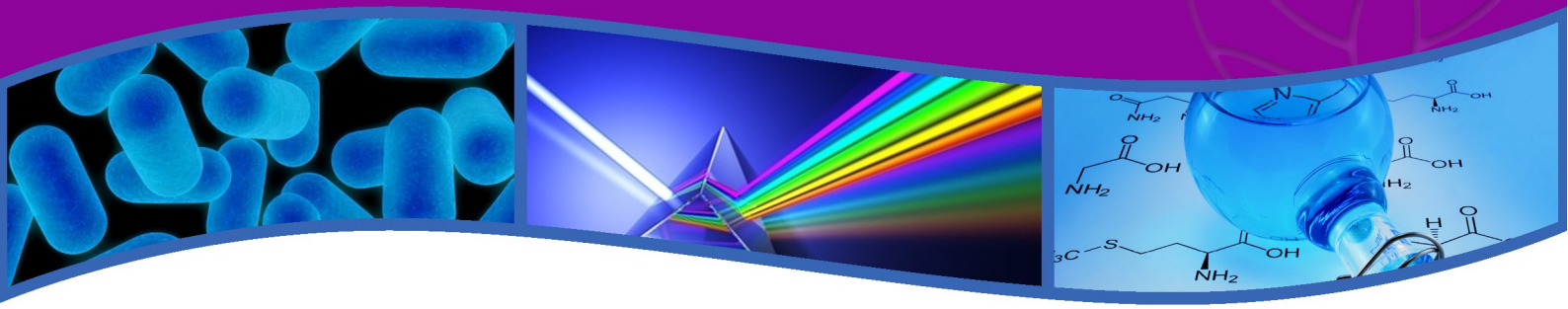

Course Aims:

GCSE study in the sciences provides the foundation for understanding the natural world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and it is vital to the world's future prosperity. All students learn essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. They gain appreciation of how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key ideas that relate to the sciences and are both inter-linked and of universal application.

Course Description:

All pupils study the three main science disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics as discrete subjects with as much specialist teaching as possible to ensure the best quality of provision. Pupils in higher sets are taught the Separate Science courses to best prepare them for further scientific study or work. They gain three GCSE grades, one for each Science. Other pupils are taught the Combined Science course which gains them two GCSE grades. Pupils following the Combined Science course are also able to enter scientific fields post-16. Pupils study both the practical aspects of science and key concepts that have been developed from those practical aspects to gain an understanding of how science works. There are six examinations to complete in the final term of Year 11.

How will I learn?

All three sciences feature practical work designed to introduce key skills and concepts that can then be built upon with discussion during lessons and modelling of scientific processes. The key at all times is to develop an understanding of what is being learnt rather than just factual content. It is the understanding developed that allows the application of scientific ideas to wide ranging situations.

Possible Career Pathways:

Scientific careers are well paid and the demand for scientifically trained candidates is growing every year. The diverse nature of the different sciences means that there's truly something for everyone within the field of study. Biologists can enter into conservation or environmental work, medical or veterinary roles. How about medical research? Chemists work to create new materials or drugs or as forensic scientists. Add some Physics and engineering roles of all sorts are available. How about being a pilot or working with electronics or computers? That's ignoring the fact that Science qualifications are highly regarded by employers outside of scientific fields. Basically, attaining a good grade in Science will open many doors for the rest of your life.