



# Beaumont School

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11 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are aware, the Year 9 GCSE options process will be underway shortly. In Science, students have the possibility of taking two GCSEs (Combined Science), or three GCSEs (Separate or Triple Science). Due to the greater demand of the course, students are required to meet a minimum standard to be eligible to select the Separate Sciences option. I wrote to you in September to explain the process I planned to use in determining students' eligibility this year. Unfortunately, the current lockdown has resulted in this process having to be adapted, as students have not been able to complete all the assessments I had intended to use in making these decisions. I felt it best to contact you in advance of the options process to explain how these decisions will now be made.

We will be using a combination of the test data we do have available and teacher assessment to give your child a current grade over the next week. This will be communicated to you via a parentmail during the week commencing Monday 18 January. Teachers will be assigning grades based on students' performance in assessments, and their wider knowledge of the students they teach. In order to be eligible to opt to study Separate Sciences at GCSE your child will need to achieve a Grade 6 or higher at this point.

If your child is keen to follow the Separate Sciences route, but does not receive a Grade 6 next week, there will be the opportunity for them to take an additional assessment in which they will need to meet a threshold standard in order to qualify. If your child is in this situation, please contact me via the admin email account by Friday 22 January 2021.

Please rest assured that the information we do have available to make these decisions will enable us to ensure a fair and equitable process and that we are committed to supporting your child to select the GCSE Science option which will be most beneficial for them. I would also like to reassure you at this stage, that if your child is not eligible to select the Separate Sciences GCSE course, the option of studying A-level Sciences remains open to them. Many of our very successful A-level students have studied Combined Science at GCSE.

I hope this information answers any questions which I know you and your child may have at this time.

Kind regards,

Dr H Skelton  
Head of Science

