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Dear Parent/Carer

**RE: GCSE SCIENCE COURSE**

I am writing to you regarding the GCSE science course that your son/daughter is currently studying. We have taken the decision that all students in Year 11 will now complete the Combined Science course.

It has become more apparent as the year has progressed and after obtaining the November Science mock exam data, that many students have gaps in knowledge and understanding. The time remaining in Year 11 to intervene and fill gaps in student knowledge is insufficient. Consequently, students are likely to find it challenging to meet their target grades. Therefore, entering students for the Combined Science qualification which has less subject content and will still enable them to achieve two GCSE's in Science is the best way forward to optimise their chances of success. In all likelihood it will result in them achieving two higher science grades in combined science than the three lower grades that they potentially would achieve in Triple Science.

Furthermore, I would like to reassure you that this in no way affects either career choices or post-16 courses and that two higher grades in GCSE science will indeed be looked upon more favourably. Post-16 courses, including A-levels, do not require students to have separate sciences.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Academy.

Yours sincerely

**Mr Barry Delve**  
**Acting Head of Science Faculty**

**Catherine Rushton**  
**Regional Lead Practitioner**

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**'the best that we can be'**