



13 September 2017

Dear parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your son/daughter to the Science Department at The Ashcombe School. This letter is to aid your understanding of the subject structure, course content and assessment procedure.

Science is a very important but exciting subject that includes both written and practical work. We include as many practical lessons as possible that aid the understanding of a particular topic. Some topics include more practical tasks than others. Your son/daughter will be taught in their tutor group, for 2 lessons each week.

Year 7 pupils will undertake 10 topics throughout the year. Most are taught and assessed in pairs but others are standalone single topics. Here is an outline of the topics content:

- **Hello Science** – An introduction to secondary science. This includes important laboratory rules, equipment location and basic equipment usage
- **7A Cells & 7B Reproduction & Variation (Biology)** – life processes and the make-up of living organisms, animal and plant cell structure and specialised cells, fertilisation in plants and animals, body changes in preparation for reproduction, genetic similarities and differences
- **7E Acids and Alkalis & 7F Simple Chemical Reactions (Chemistry)** – the pH scale, neutralisation and the products of neutralisation, how products and reactants are formed in reactions between acids, metals, oxygen and carbonate and testing for gases
- **7G Particle Theory & 7H Solutions (Chemistry)** – particle movement and structure and differences between solids, liquids and gases, how solvents and solutes make a solution, and separating solutions by distillation, filtering and chromatography
- **7I Energy Resources & 7K Forces (Physics)** – where fossil fuels come from, alternative and renewable fuels, force measurement, balanced forces and resistive forces
- **7J Electricity (Physics)** – measuring and explaining current, similarities and difference in parallel and series circuits and electrical hazards

All pupils will begin with the 'Hello Science' topic but the rest will be taught in different orders to each tutor group. The topics above can be split into Biology, Chemistry and Physics, although we do not teach these individually until 6<sup>th</sup> form at The Ashcombe School.

At the end of each topic, each pupil will take an assessment within one of their lessons. If a pupil misses a lesson when the assessment takes place, it is usually completed within the next lesson they attend. Each test is 35 minutes long. Data from the assessments is collated for every pupil in the year group to give an overall attainment that will appear on the progress review and report that you will receive later on in the year.

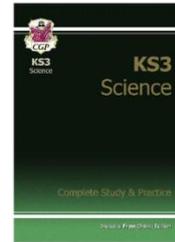
To help pupils with their own independent learning throughout key stage 3, we would like to offer pupils the opportunity to buy an in-depth revision guide (please see link below). The guide is in full colour with examples and very good visual examples of complex processes. It covers the entire key stage 3 curriculum and will therefore be a useful tool for your son/daughter, not only this year but during Years 8 and 9 as well.



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The books have a RRP of £10.99; however we are able to purchase them for **£6.00**. If you would like to take advantage of this offer please make the payment through ParentPay by **Wednesday 4th October**, to enable books to be distributed before half-term. This is a safe and secure way of paying for trips and items online. If you have any queries about Parent Pay, please contact the school at [parentpay@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:parentpay@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk)

**Please note that this book will cover work from Years 7, 8 and 9. If you purchased one last year from school for an older sibling it will be exactly the same.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school or by email [millward.stephen@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:millward.stephen@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Millward  
KS3 Science Coordinator