



13 September 2017

Dear parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your son/daughter to Year 8 Science at The Ashcombe School. This letter is to aid your understanding of the subject structure, course content and assessment procedure this year.

This year your son/daughter will once again be taught in their tutor group; however this year they will have 3 lessons each week.

Year 8 pupils will undertake 13 topics throughout the year. Some are taught and assessed in pairs and others are standalone single topics. Here is an outline of the topics and their content:

- **Welcome back** – a reminder of important laboratory rules, variables, investigation techniques
- **7L Space & The Solar System (Physics)** – day and night, phases of the moon, and how the seasons occur
- **8A Food and Digestion & 8B Respiration (Biology)** – labelling important parts of the digestive and respiratory system, diets, the function of blood and the circulatory system
- **8C Microbes and Disease (Biology)** – characteristics of bacteria, fungi & viruses, the spread and prevention of disease
- **8D Ecological relationships (Biology)** - sampling techniques from of flora and fauna and field data collection and analysis
- **8E Atoms and Elements & 8F Compounds and Mixtures (Chemistry)** – looking at the structure of materials from atoms, the elements, what happens when atoms combine and the properties of these new materials
- **8G Rocks & Weathering (Chemistry)** – weathering, erosion, fossilisation, the formation of sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks and the rock cycle
- **8I Heating and Cooling & 8J Magnets (Physics)**– temperature and particle movement, heat transfers (conduction, convection, evaporation & radiation), insulation, magnetic materials, magnetic fields and electromagnets
- **8K Light & 8L Sound (Physics)** – how light moves, the law of reflection, refraction, spectrum and colours, characteristics of light and sound waves, sound movement through materials, describing sounds in terms of pitch, frequency and amplitude and how the ear works

All pupils will be taught the entire course, although the order of topics will differ for each tutor group. At the end of each topic, or pair of topics, 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. Furthermore, Year 8 pupils take an examination during the summer term in the hall. I will write to you later in the year explaining this in more detail. This examination is important as it is used to determine the setting for Year 9 groups. Year 8 data from end of topic tests are also used in this setting process. Once again, end of topic test data 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.

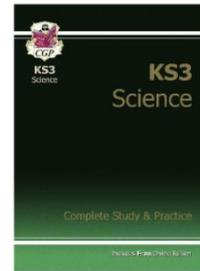
To help pupils with their own independent learning this year, we would like to offer pupils the opportunity to buy an in-depth revision guide (please see link below). The guide is in full colour with examination style questions and very good visual examples of complex processes. It covers the entire key



Headteacher: D. J. Blow, M.A.
Ashcombe Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1LY
Tel: 01306 886312 Fax: 01306 742537
www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk
info@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk



stage 3 curriculum and will therefore be a useful tool for your son/daughter, not only this year but during Year 9, as well as helping them to revise the content they covered last year.



https://www.amazon.co.uk/KS3-Science-Complete-Study-Practice/dp/184146385X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1473283134&sr=8-1&keywords=KS3+Science+Complete+Study+%26+Practice+cgp

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 ParentPay please contact the school at 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 for an older sibling or for your son/daughter in Year 7 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

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Millward
KS3 Science Coordinator