



13 September 2017

Dear parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your son/daughter to Year 9 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 be taught in a group that matches their ability. This will have been sorted using the attainment data from end of topic tests and the examination completed in Year 8. This year they will once again have 3 lessons each week.

Year 9 pupils will undertake 12 topics throughout the year. Here is an outline of the topics content:

- **9A & 9B Inheritance, Selection, Health and Fitness (Biology)** – animal and plant breeding, selective breeding, inherited and environmental characteristics, the effects of Smoking, Drugs and Alcohol on the body
- **9C & 9D Photosynthesis and plants as food (Biology)** – products and reactants of photosynthesis, limiting factors, plant adaptations, competition, and plant and pest control
- **9E & 9F Reactions of metals, metal compounds and the reactivity series (Chemistry)** – products of metals, metal oxides and carbonates and acids, neutralisation, alkali metals and displacement
- **9G & 9H Environmental Chemistry & Using Chemistry** – acid rain, air pollution, global warming, new materials, conservation of mass, new and disproved theories
- **9I & 9J Energy, electricity, energy & space (Physics)** – energy changes in an electric circuit, generating electricity, efficiency, weight and gravity, orbits and satellites
- **9K & 9L Speed, pressure and moments (Physics)** – speed distance and time calculations, drag, terminal velocity, motion graphs, and pressure, levers & moment calculations

All pupils will be taught the entire course, although the order of topics will differ for each teaching group. All teaching will have been completed by the middle of the summer term. During the latter part of the summer term, pupils will begin preparations for their GCSE course.

At the end of all the Biology topics the pupils will sit an assessment, which will test them on all 4 topics (9A, B, C, D) and the same will happen for Chemistry and Physics. If a pupil misses a lesson when the assessment takes place it is usually completed within the next lesson they attend. Each test is 60 minutes long. Furthermore, Year 9 pupils take a final examination during the summer term in the hall. I will write to you later in the year explaining this and the start of the GCSE course in more detail. This examination is important as it is used to determine the setting for GCSE groups. The examination at the end of Year 9 will test pupils on the Science they have learnt since Year 7. Year 9 data from end of topic tests are also used in the setting process.

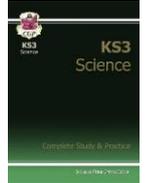
To aid in the preparation for end of topic assessments, as well as the end of year examination, we would like to offer you the opportunity to purchase an in-depth pupil revision guide. This revision guide covers all the science topics taught since Year 7. The books have a RRP of £10.99; however we are 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**. 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 These revision guides will be handed to pupils prior to the October half-term.



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If you would like to purchase this revision guide yourself, then they are available from Amazon:
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



Please note that this book will cover work from Years 7, 8 and 9, so will be useful when revising for the Year 9 examination. If you purchased one last year for an older sibling or for your son/daughter in Year 8 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