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Hannah Rowlands: Headteacher

26<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### **Science Tier of Entry**

As you will be aware Year 11 have their first set of mock examinations in November. Science is a subject that has two tiers of entry; on Foundation tier students can achieve grade 1-5 and on Higher tier they can attain grade 4-9. Below a grade 1 on Foundation tier and below a grade 4 on Higher tier will result in an Ungraded qualification for Science.

I have looked closely at the advice from the examination board which states that unless students are achieving a secure grade 5 on Higher tier that it is best to enter them for Foundation tier. This advice, coupled with the evidence that I have from previous assessments and information we have students minimum expected grades and has determined the appropriate tier of Science paper for the mock examinations. Students will be informed of their tier of entry for the mock examinations in the coming week.

Movement up or down tiers for the entries for the external GCSE summer examinations will depend on the outcome of the November mocks and will be based on the evidence at hand. The papers that students will be sitting in these mocks will be based solely on pre-covered content that students studied in Year 10. If students are achieving a high grade 5 on Foundation tier they may move up to the Higher tier, however, if students on the Higher tier do not achieve a high grade 5, they may move down to Foundation. Thus, it is vital that the outcomes of the mock examinations represent as accurate a picture as possible of students' potential to ensure accuracy when deciding upon tier of entry.

Please would you support us in instilling the importance of these mock examinations and encourage your son/daughter to start revising now if they have not done so already. All students have already received some support material from us and have targeted P6 support sessions with science staff available to them on a Thursday after school.

I will contact you after the mock examinations if there is any change in tier for your son/daughter.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Mr. D Webb**  
Director of Science

