



Church of England School  
Head of School: Mrs N J Adamson MA NPQH

30<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Year 11 Science Retest

Your son/daughter recently sat mock exams for Science and the class teacher feels that your child is capable of achieving a grade 5 or above, so would like them to sit a retest paper on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February to determine if they should sit the Higher Tier papers in the summer.

Some students have initially been entered for the Higher Tier, but we would like to be certain that this is the correct tier for your child. Others have initially been entered for the Foundation Tier, but would possibly benefit from sitting the Higher Tier papers.

Your son/daughter will sit a 1 hour **Higher Tier** paper which will take place after school in ZF2 on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February. The topics covered will be the same ones that your child revised for the mock exams (see below). For Combined students, there will be questions from papers 1 and 2. Triple students who need to sit more than one retest will sit these over several days (after school).

	<b>COMBINED Science</b>	<b>TRIPLE Science</b>
<b>TOPICS TO REVISE</b>	<b>Biology topics:</b> B1, B2, B3, B5, B8, B9, B10, B11, B12, B13, B14, B15 <b>Chemistry topics:</b> C1-C8, C12 <b>Physics topics:</b> P1, P2, P3, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P12, P13	<b>Biology:</b> all paper 2 topics (B10-B18) <b>Chemistry:</b> all paper 1 topics (C1-C7) <b>Physics:</b> All topics <b>except</b> P11 and P15

If your child is unable to attend at this time, they should come and speak to me as soon as possible to arrange another time after school in the week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> February. Should your child **not** wish to sit a retest and remain on the Foundation Tier, they should also inform me as soon as possible.

We will then look at the following to determine whether your child should sit the Higher or Foundation Tier in Science.

1. How well your child understands the language and context of the **Higher Tier** questions
2. How good your child's answers are on the retest, particularly their use of scientific language and maths skills. They need to score enough marks to show that they are capable of achieving at least a grade 5
3. How 'committed' your child is to their revision – students should consistently be demonstrating that they are completing at least 2 hours of science revision per week.



**Address:** Hume Way, Ruislip, Middlesex. HA4 8EE ∞ **Telephone:** 01895 639227 ∞ **Facsimile:** 01895 622429

**Email:** office@bishopramseyschool.org ∞ **Website:** www.bishopramseyschool.org

There is no 'mixing' of tiers, so for Combined Science, students sit either 6 Foundation papers or 6 Higher papers, so they need to be capable of achieving a grade 5 in all 6 papers.

For Triple Science, your child may be entered for foundation for one subject e.g. biology, but the Higher Tier for physics and chemistry – this is because the Triple award is 3 separate GCSEs.

Last year, thousands of students nationally who were entered for the Higher Tiers achieved a U grade, because they did not get enough marks to achieve a grade on the Higher paper. Thankfully, all students who were entered for the higher tier at Bishop Ramsey last year achieved a grade. Therefore, we have to make absolutely certain that students entered for the higher tier are capable of interpreting the higher demand of the questions and have good enough subject knowledge to achieve enough marks.

Please complete the below reply slip and return this to me by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Once marked, I will contact parents/carers to let you know which final tier your child has been entered for.

Yours sincerely,



**Mrs N Jeffries**  
**Head of Science**

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**Please sign and return to Mrs Jeffries in the Science Department  
by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

I have received the letter regarding the retest in Science taking place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

I understand that my child will need to achieve a grade 5 in the retest and show that they are completing weekly revision in order for them to be entered for the Higher Tier.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/carer)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_