



Church of England School
Executive Head and CEO: Dr Hilary Macaulay

15th September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 7 Science Overview

We are writing to give you an overview of Science in Year 7 to help you support your child's learning and progress. We are very much looking forward to working with you all to support your child achieve their potential in Science.

Monitoring the progress of your child

Science in Year 7 is taught in mixed ability groups and all students will be taught the same topics throughout the year, although the order of topics may be different for each class. Each student will be placed onto a 'pathway' depending on their KS2 data and spelling/reading age (support, core or extension pathway). Each student will be given a tracking sheet at the start of Year 7, where they are expected to RAG rate their performance after each topic using a specific criteria e.g. knowledge of the topic, ability to apply their knowledge, data handling, practical skills and literacy. Students should also record their test percentage after each assessment. Teachers will complete a termly tracking assessment based on your child's attitude to learning in lessons and achievement on each assessment. This data will be available to parents towards the end of each term.

Our KS3 Curriculum

Our key stage three curriculum is designed to build a foundation of key scientific knowledge and understanding, as well as the development of key practical skills. Our Science curriculum has clear links to the school's curriculum intent of **Learning, Loving and Living** and there are frequent opportunities in our Science curriculum for students to develop in **Learning, Loving and Living**. We introduce Science to students in a fun and engaging manner, allowing students to learn through doing. We have developed a broad range of topics to engage students in the three key areas of science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This allows our students to consider how things work, the importance of the Earth's resources for a sustainable future, why things happen, how things change and how to carry out investigations. Our students are given opportunities to ask scientific questions, carry out investigations and research, create models and analyse and evaluate their findings. Our Year 7 curriculum is designed to enthuse students and to develop the skills required to make them successful at GCSE, including maths and literacy skills, independent learning, practical skills and collaboration. There are termly ISAs (Investigative Skills Assessments) which allow students to plan their own investigations, carry them out, record and analyse their results and evaluate, key skills required to become successful and competent scientists. Students are assessed regularly, with a focus on the recall of key scientific knowledge, understanding of processes, application of knowledge and understanding and linking scientific phenomena to other areas of the curriculum and the world of work. Students are all expected to be a key part of their learning journey and are given time to reflect on their progress after each assessment to reflect on where they did well and what they need to do to make improvements. An overview of the Year 7 Science Learning Journey can be found on the school's website: [LINK](#)

Address: Hume Way, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 8EE ∞ **Telephone:** 01895 639227
Email: office@bishopramsey.school ∞ **Website:** www.bishopramseyschool.org

Topics and Assessments

Students will study all three sciences each term, with a termly overarching theme. Students will have at least 3 assessments per term: either 'end of topic tests' based on the 'science content' in the topics or a test based on an extended investigation that students carry out (mini ISA). The table below gives an overview of the topics and assessments in Year 7 for Science. More details of our Year 7 Programme of study can be found on the school website: [LINK](#)

Each topic test is 30 minutes long and is split into 3 sections:

- Section A: 10 multiple choice questions (10 marks)
- Section B: short answer question based, focussing on knowledge of the content and experiments carried out during the topic (14 marks)
- Section C: a longer question (6 marks)

Each mini ISA will comprise questions based on the extended practical that students carried out. It will assess them on their knowledge of variables, writing a method, evaluating an experiment and analysing data.

Students will be given a 'revision sheet' for each topic to help them revise. Copies of these will also be placed onto the [KS3 Science TEAM](#) (accessed through student school email) and will be set as revision homework on Arbor before each end of unit test. After each test, students will be given an opportunity to reflect on their performance and think about what improvements they can make.

Term	Termly theme	Topic	Assessment
Autumn term	Science all around us	Introduction to Science	No formal assessment
		Introduction to Practical Work	End of topic test
		Forces	End of topic test
		Cells	End of topic test
		Saving our Planet	End of topic test
Spring term	How things work	Structure and Function of the Body	End of topic test including mini ISA assessment
		Moon Project	Presentations and end of topic test
		Particles	End of topic test
Summer term	Changes	Waves	Mini ISA and end of topic test
		Reproduction	End of topic test
		Separation Techniques	End of topic test including mini ISA assessment

Practical work

We are very eager to ensure that students will be able to complete many practical activities in Science. Our priority has to be the safety of our staff and students and as such, we have clear guidelines that students need to follow during practical lessons. Students who behaved in an unsafe manner may be issued with a detention or parents contacted.

Behaviour: rewards and sanctions

Students who display excellent behaviour, effort, achievement or progress will be rewarded in a number of ways including by being given housepoints, stickers, certificates or receiving positive phone calls home. Each term, teachers nominate students for the 'student of the term' award. Winners will be presented with certificates in assembly. Students are expected to follow the school behaviour policy. Students who cause disruption to lessons, fail to hand in homework or do not follow the health and safety guidelines may be placed onto a green science report. Students will be set targets and their teacher will monitor them against these targets for a period of up to 6 lessons. If students fail their targets, they will be placed onto an orange report, where they will be monitored by the KS3 Science Co-ordinator. Students who fail their orange report will be placed onto red Science report and this will be monitored by the Head of Faculty. Parents will be informed if students are placed onto Science report.

Supporting your child at home

Parents can support their children at home in a number of ways:

- Ask questions, in everyday situations around the home e.g. how do you think that works?
- Work with your child to find answers to these questions using resources such as books, library, the internet
- Discuss any scientific news or TV programs with your child
- Ask your child to tell you about science they have done at school
- Show an interest in your child's Science homework and check Arbor regularly
- Talk about the animals or plants you see in the garden or park
- Visit science based exhibitions, museums or zoological parks.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs N Jeffries
Head of Science
njeffries@bishopramsey.school

Mrs S Morgan-Smith
Deputy Head of Science
KS3 Co-ordinator
smorgansmith@bishopramsey.school

Dr N McGeady
Deputy Head of Science
KS3 Co-ordinator
nmcgeady@bishopramsey.school