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Ref: CPI/NW

15 July 2024

Dear Parent

**RE: Year 10 Science Groupings**

I hope that you are looking forward to the summer holidays. As pupils will begin their GCSE Science courses in September, we have made some changes to the Science class groupings.

These changes have been based on ranking across all Year 9 Assessments but also in discussion with class teachers of whether pupils are possible triple science, higher tier or foundation tier candidates. This will be reviewed again at the end of the Year 10 to decide pupils' course and tier of entry for Year 11.

Classes 10Sc1 and 10Sc2 will be taught the same content and level of demand and so are essentially parallel classes. For some pupils it may appear they have 'moved up or down' this however is not necessarily the case. Classes 10Sc3 - 5 will all be taught the content for the foundation tier and are mixed classes.

In Year 10 and 11, pupils will be taught by three science teachers covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics and will sit six science exams at the end of Year 11. Please visit the Smithdon High School Science Department website for more information on the exam specifications and revision materials.

<https://sites.google.com/smithdonhigh.org.uk/science/key-stage-4>

Pupils who show a particular aptitude and desire to study triple science, will then be considered for the triple science class in Year 11. The differences between tiers, classes and exam structures will be explained to your son/daughter by their science teacher in their first science lesson.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me on [c.pike@smithdonhigh.org.uk](mailto:c.pike@smithdonhigh.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Mrs C Pike**  
**Head of Science**

