



Friday 26th September 2025

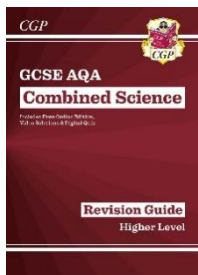
Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the science department at Wootton Upper School. I wanted to take this opportunity to say how pleased I have been with the way year 9 students have settled into learning in their science lessons. I hope this letter provides you with some useful information about how your child will be learning science this year.

Assessment Information

Your child is currently working on content that features in both the Key Stage 3 and GCSE science courses. This means they have already started their journey towards their GCSE exams. Over the next few months, we will be focusing on filling gaps, addressing misconceptions, and providing opportunities to stretch and challenge them. We are excited to be delivering a curriculum designed to ensure your child is fully prepared to commence the GCSE science course later this academic year. You can find more details on the science learning journey on the school website.

There will be two further assessment 'tests' taking place in January and July. These will be used to determine the progress in knowing more and being able to do more in science. In class your child will complete frequent multiple-choice quizzes followed by a re-teach or extension lesson, giving your child the best possible chance for success. If you are considering how you could support your child's learning at home here are a selection of resources that we recommend:



The CGP KS4 Combined Science revision guides and workbooks are excellent resources to support your child's learning. These can be purchased from Amazon at a good price. If you are unsure which level is most suitable, your child can ask their science teacher for a recommendation. The CGP revision cards are also highly recommended as an effective way to review key knowledge.



Seneca Learning [www.senecalearning.com]– you can set up an account using a personal email address and access free courses in KS3 and KS4 science, as well as linking your child's account to a parent account. Once we have IT systems back, we will be using the website for regular homework tasks.

BBC Bitesize [[KS3 – BBC Bitesize](http://KS3-BBC-Bitesize)]– free website with a range of comprehensive revision notes, videos, quizzes and practice questions.



KayScience [www.kayscience.com] – a subscription-based website that provides high-quality video lessons, quizzes, and worksheets tailored to the GCSE Combined Science course. The explanations are clear and student-friendly, making it an excellent tool for consolidating classwork and revising key topics. Many students find the videos particularly helpful when reviewing content independently.

Science Homework Expectations

Homework will be set by your child's class teacher and clearly written into their planner.

Each student has a topic booklet for their science lessons. At the back of this booklet is a section titled "Retrieval Questions and Answers." These are designed to help students revise key content and prepare for regular low-stakes testing.

Each week, teachers will assign a specific number of retrieval questions for students to learn and revise. The following week, students will complete a short test on these questions in class.

Accountability and Support

Soon, if a student scores 0 on their retrieval test, an after-school correction will be issued – unless one of the following has been completed:

- **Parent Signature in Planner**
A parent or carer has signed the planner to confirm they have quizzed the student on the retrieval questions and answers.
- **Study Notes Submitted**
The student has created and submitted study notes based on the retrieval questions, showing they have actively engaged with the material.

This system encourages consistent revision habits while recognising effort and parental support. Our aim is to help students build confidence and long-term memory in preparation for their GCSEs.

Setting Information

Year 9 students are currently in mixed ability groups, which will be reviewed throughout the year as we gather more information from assessments and attitude to learning in class. You will be informed of any changes that may take place regarding the setting of students.

Looking ahead to GCSE

We follow AQA GCSE Trilogy Combined Science, and you will be kept up to date with course information, assessment and support materials at that time.

At the end of this year your child will be choosing their option subjects. As a core subject, your child will be studying either Combined Science where they will study biology, chemistry and physics and achieve two GCSE grades, or Triple Science where they will study biology, chemistry and physics and achieve a GCSE in each subject separately. Triple science is a very popular option subject and often oversubscribed. Usually, students are selected for the course based on their performance and attitude to learning throughout the year. There will be further information provided nearer the time, but it is important for students to be aware that their performance and attitude to learning over the whole year will be considered.



Wootton Upper School

Part of Wootton Academy Trust

Although you will have the opportunity to discuss this with your child's teacher in more detail at parent's evening, do feel free to contact myself second in department and head of KS3 science curriculum (Mshaw@wootton.sch.beds.uk) or head of department (Hturner@wootton.sch.beds.uk) should you require any further information in the meantime.

Yours sincerely,

MShaw

Second in Science at Wootton Upper School

HTurner

Head of Department at Wootton Upper School