Science Qualifications & Pathways

Course Title	**GCSE (Core + Additional)**
Exam Board	AQA
GCSE Equivalent	Two GCSE completed over KS4
Assessment Breakdown	Year 10 core 3 units, written examination in June plus an ISA investigation. Year 11 Additional 3 written exams in June plus an ISA investigation.
Course Outline	The Core science has biology, chemistry and physics units. These 3 units plus an investigation will lead to a GCSE grade at the end of year 10. Content includes the environment, living organisms, chemicals in industry and electricity amongst other topics. The Additional course has a written paper in biology, chemistry and physics. There is also an investigation to be completed and analysed. This then leads to another GCSE grade at the end of year 11. Content includes biological compounds, forces and chemical reactions.
Progression Routes to Further Education/ Training	As a core subject, GCSE science is useful for entry onto any college course. It also has relevant subject knowledge for science and applied science A levels. To gain entry on to biology, chemistry or physics A level, most colleges have an entry requirement of B grade at core and A grade at additional. Most universities require a C grade in science for entry.
Progression Routes to Employment	Science has many career paths. For example nursing and other jobs in the NHS require an understanding of science. Many engineering and industrial jobs are science based. Most firms employ scientists for product testing in their laboratories. There are also many jobs for biology chemistry and physics graduates in other career paths.

Course Title	**GCSE Physics, Chemistry and Biology**
Exam Board	AQA
GCSE Equivalent	Three GCSE A* - C
Assessment Breakdown	There will be 3 biology, 3 chemistry and 3 physics written examinations which will be sat at the end of year 11, in May / June. There is also a separate investigation style exam for biology, chemistry and physics.
Course Outline	This route through science will lead to three GCSEs. The student will have a separate grade in each science. Students will gain an in depth knowledge of physics, chemistry and biology. Content includes the environment, living organisms, chemicals in industry, electricity, biological compounds, forces and chemical reactions and human biology amongst other topics. Year 11 topics prepare students for A level study.
Progression Routes to Further Education/ Training	This course is an essential choice for students wishing to progress onto A level pure science courses. The entry for colleges would be a B grade in each science. The course also provides more subject content than the GCSE science which will enable the students to have a smoother transition to studying sciences at A level.
Progression Routes to Employment	This course is necessary for a career in medicine. The course is also good for any student with a talent or interest in science to gain three good GCSEs.

Useful websites for extending learning in Science outside of school

BBC News about Science and the Environment - http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment/

Key Stage 3
KS3 BBC Bitesize - http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zng4d2p

Key Stage 4
GCSE Bitesize for Core Science (AQA) - http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/aqa/
GCSE Bitesize for Additional Science (AQA) - http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/add_aqa/

Revision Guides
CGP GCSE Science revision guides are available through our science teachers. The guides cover the whole of the GCSE course and are crucial for success.

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