

08 September 2017

Dear Parent,

### SCIENCE TRIAL EXAM RESULTS

Your child will receive their trial exam results on 14<sup>th</sup> September. We have arranged for them to collect these from their tutors rather than online to ensure that they reflect upon what they have achieved and are thinking about how they can move forward to ensure they achieve their target grades in Year 11. These papers have been externally marked, and as this is a new qualification students will not be given GCSE 9-1 grades. Instead, they will be given their 'ventile ranking' as well as their scores in each of the three test papers.

The ventile ranking shows their position when compared to all the other students who sit their course and have sat their tier of paper. A higher ventile ranking shows higher attainment in these exams. For example, a ventile ranking of 85 would indicate that the student is in the top 15% of students who sat that tier of paper for that course.

It is important to remember:

- Ventile rankings cannot be compared between tiers, for example a lower ventile ranking for the higher tier paper would not necessarily indicate that the student would achieve a very low grade as this paper is aimed at students with a target from grades 5-9
- Ventile rankings cannot be compared between students who study triple science and combined science, because most schools enter students for triple science who are likely to achieve grades 5-9 and almost the entire cohort achieve higher grades

Combined science students will receive one ventile ranking which reflects the fact that their final science grades will reflect an average of their performance in their 6 exams at the end of Year 11. Triple science students will receive three ventile rankings because they will get three separate grades at the end of Year 11. We also receive an individual breakdown of marks per question and will use this to address any areas of weakness.

It is important for students to remember that these exams do not count towards the qualification and whilst we are expecting that many students will be very pleased with their results there will be those who will be disappointed. We will be emphasising to these students that they can improve upon their performance by working with us this year to improve and appreciate your support in encouraging this at home.

Yours faithfully,

Simon Gregson  
JOINT HEAD OF SCIENCE