



# ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

15<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As your son has now completed his first set of Pre Public Examinations in Science, I am writing to advise you of the Science GCSE pathway that your son can take. Pupils in Set 1 Science are being offered the opportunity to take triple Science this year awarding them three GCSEs in each separate Science rather than one grade equivalent to two GCSEs in Combined Science.

For Science related courses, colleges and universities are interested in the grades achieved and not whether a pupil has completed Combined or triple Science. I am only advising that pupils who achieved a grade 7-7 or higher should follow a triple Science pathway as a pupil with grades lower than this are at a higher risk of attaining three lower grades than the grade they could achieve in Combined Science. For example, achieving an 8-8 in Combined Science offers more opportunities than three Grade 6's and shows a more solid understanding of Science. The entire 2018 cohort at St. Joseph's followed the Combined Science course and we had great success compared to national outcomes with 25% of the cohort achieving a grade 7-7 compared to a national figure of 7%.

Often parents and pupils are concerned that completing Combined Science puts them at a disadvantage for 'A' level Science however this is not the case. Those following the triple Science course will be completing the additional triple Science content in their Wednesday Science interventions after school and completing the remaining Combined Science content in their Science lessons.

Please could you return the slip below indicating that you have received this letter and indicating whether your son wishes to follow the triple Science course for the remainder of Year 11. If you wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me via email ([cdesbottes@sjc.ac](mailto:cdesbottes@sjc.ac)).

Yours faithfully

Miss Desbottes  
Head of Science

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I the Parent/Carer of ..... have read and understood the GCSE Science pathways my son is offered.

My son would/would not like to follow the triple Science GCSE pathway (*please delete as appropriate*).

Signed .....

Date .....