

Application for consideration to Biology, Chemistry and Physics (separate sciences) GCSEs at Old Buckenham High School.

Please return to OBHS reception or email your reply to jclark@obhs.co.uk by Thursday 2nd July marked as 'Science Application Form'

Student name _____

Current year group _____

What are your interests and hobbies?

What are your current aspirations after year 11?

Please tell us why you would like to study the separate science qualifications?

Please use additional sheets of paper if necessary

Signature of Student _____

Signature of parent or carer in support of the application _____

Are separate science GCSEs right for you?

In many schools, students are automatically streamed for either the three separate science GCSEs or GCSE Science Trilogy depending on their academic performance at KS3. At OBHS we believe that success in the study of science is dependent on a student's aspirations and commitment to studying the course rather than their prior attainment.

The following information aims to give you an overview of the two Science pathways: GCSE Trilogy and separate science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Comparison point	Core course - GCSE Trilogy (combined)	Opt in course – Separate science GCSEs, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
How many GCSEs will I get?	2 GCSE grades as a combined entry. Your grades will be counted as 2 full GCSE's.	3 separate GCSEs. Each GCSE is independent of each other. You will end up with 3 GCSE's
How much work is there?	This course has a guided learning hour estimate of 240 hours.	This course has a guided learning hour estimate of 360 hours.
How many exams will have to take at the end of Y11?	You will take a paper 1 and paper 2 in each discipline – 2 Biology papers, 2 Chemistry papers and 2 Physics papers. Each paper is 75 minutes long. The paper marks are combined to award students 2 separate GCSE grades.	You will take a paper 1 and paper 2 in each discipline – 2 Biology papers, 2 Chemistry papers and 2 Physics papers. Each paper is 105 minutes long.
How much independent work will I have to undertake?	You will receive homework and prep work in line with the whole-school homework policy.	You will receive homework and prep work in line with the whole school homework policy. You will also be expected to complete wider reading around the subject (e.g. journals or internet articles) and completed additional independent assignments connected to the additional content in this qualification.
Who is the course suitable for?	This is a core subject studied (as a minimum) by all KS4 students at OBHS.	We recognise that this course is academically rigorous, with much of the additional content in the separate science courses aimed at Higher tier students. However, this should not be seen as a barrier: all budding scientists regardless of attainment are welcomed to express an interest and be considered for a place on the course.
Do I need separate science GCSEs if I want to do a science related career?	Students with GCSE Trilogy grades 6 or better are welcomed on to most A-level and 6 th form science courses. For careers such as nursing, farming and engineering, where apprenticeships or workplace training are the gateway to the profession, combined science is a well-regarded and accepted qualification.	Students looking to advance on to scientific A-levels for careers such as medicine, Psychology, teaching and engineering would benefit from the extra curriculum content of the separate science qualification. This can be helpful in the transition between compulsory education at high school and further education.
Will I need to buy extra resources?	There is currently no requirement to purchase any resources. As a school we provide digital access to textbooks and learning resources. Purchasing a revision guide or online revision package such as myGCSEScience (www.my-gcse-science.com) is an additional resource that can support your child. This is partially recommended earlier in the course so that students become familiar with the course and its content.	
Link to the qualification specification for further information	Trilogy: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464 Separate science Biology: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461 Separate science Chemistry: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462 Separate science Physics: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463	

If you have any additional queries or concerns, please contact me at jclark@obhs.co.uk.