



Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Each exam in the combined science GCSE features a foundation tier and a higher tier paper (like maths). The foundation tier is designed for students who are aiming for grades 1-5. In contrast, the Higher tier is designed for students who are looking for grades 4-9. Where students are placed is based on guidance from teachers.

In the most recent mock, your child was given the tier of paper that would allow them to meet their target grade. For instance, if they have a target of a 7-7, then they were placed on the higher paper. If students fall below the mark for a grade 4 in the paper, their performance will *usually* receive a mark of ungraded. This means that they would have scored a higher grade if they had sat the foundation paper, which has a fine-grained assessment of grades 1-5. This is what happened to your child in the recent mock.

All Year 11 students will sit a practice mock for paper two content while in class. Your child will be given another opportunity to sit the higher paper at that time. If they fail to earn the marks that they need, they will be placed on the foundation paper for their actual mocks in February, which will optimise their chances of the highest grade. We as a team would love to see the students have the most success possible, and will strive to place the students on the paper that will give them this success.

There are many avenues for help that they may explore, in order to improve performance:

- KayScience- This platform has videos, quizzes, and past papers available for every science topic.
- Study Club- A free tutoring session that happens every Thursday in L005.
- Revision guides-These are available for purchase from the school. Please see your teacher for information.
- Past paper questions-these are assigned as homework every other week.

Thank you so much for all of your support,

Ashley Wilhite

Head of Science