

6th March 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Loreto Grammar School offers **CCEA Single Award Science at GCSE** as an alternative to Double Award Science in Year 11 and Year 12. This course provides an opportunity for pupils to achieve a qualification in Science as a Single GCSE Grade.

Having considered your daughter's attainment to date, we feel that this course would provide her with a good alternative for achieving success in Science and **would recommend that she would choose** to undertake **Single Award Science for GCSE** on her **Year 10 Subject Choices Form** – due for submission on **Friday 10th March 2023**.

Key features

The Single Award Science specification is designed to **reinforce and further develop** topics that have been introduced at Key Stage Three Science.

It offers opportunities to build on the skills and capabilities developed through the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 3. It allows students the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their practical skills. All units are externally assessed; teachers do not mark any of the components. It provides a meaningful, relevant programme of study to equip students for vocational studies in Science or entry into the world of work. Students can re-sit each unit once.

Exam structure

The course is divided into four sections – **Biology 25%; Chemistry 25%; Physics 25% and a Practical component 25%**.

For each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, there will be a **1 Hour written paper** – these can be offered in February, June and November and entries for various examination series are at the discretion of the school. Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations.

The **Practical Exam** is divided into two sections – **Part A** involves carrying out some practical work and **Part B** involves answering questions on practical techniques.

One GCSE grade is awarded at the end of this course.

Details of the content may be found on the **CCEA website**:

<https://ccea.org.uk/downloads/docs/Specifications/GCSE/GCSE%20Science%20Single%20Award%20%282017%29/GCSE%20Science%20Single%20Award%20%282017%29-specification-Standard.pdf>

Progression

If your daughter wishes to pursue a Science qualification at A level, this course will lead to a pathway for **GCE Life and Health Sciences**, which shall be offered in this school in **September 2024**.

We would advise your daughter to liaise with the Careers department to ensure that this qualification will be acceptable for her chosen career options/pathways.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Please note that currently, should your daughter opt to do **GCSE Single Award Science**, then she would be required to do **GCSE Learning for Life and Work** too.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Mary Gavin
Vice-Principal for Curriculum, Learning and Teaching