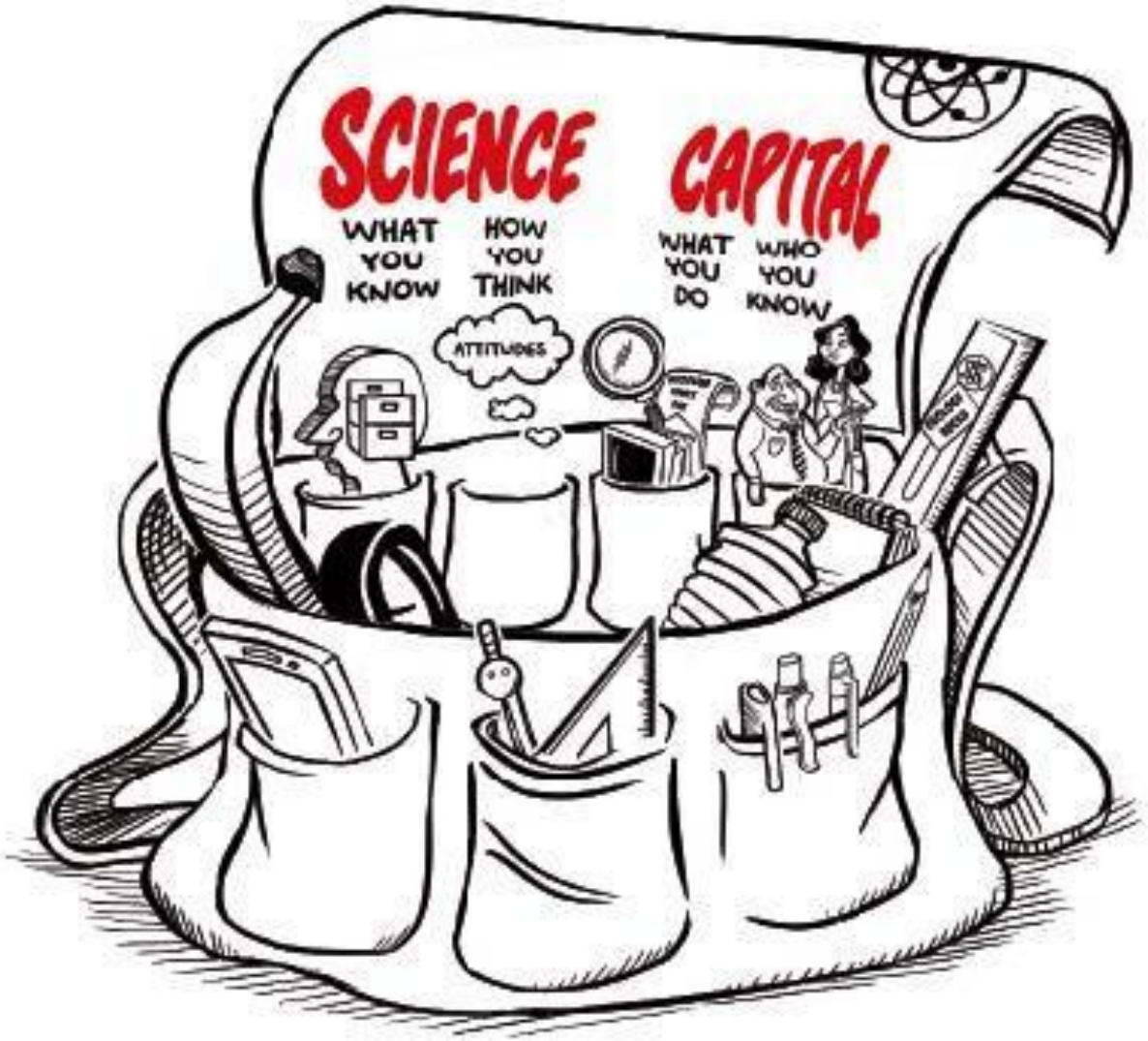
Key Stage 4 Options

GCSE Combined Science
or
Separate Science

Building your Science Capital




I can be a ...
SOFTWARE DEVELOPER
METEOROLOGIST
DOCTOR
AIRPLANE PILOT
EPIDEMIOLOGIST
ANTHROPOLOGIST
ASTRONAUT
MICROBIOLOGIST
ENGINEER
MATHEMATICIAN
CARTOGRAPHER
BIOLOGIST
NETWORK ANALYST
MEDICAL SCIENTIST
COMPUTER PROGRAMMER
VETERINARIAN
ZOOLOGIST
GEOGRAPHER
NURSE
ARCHITECT
ARCHAEOLOGIST
CONSERVATION SCIENTIST
TECHNICAL WRITER
PARK NATURALIST
GEOSCIENTIST
STATISTICIAN
SURVEYOR
RESEARCH ANALYST
SPACE SCIENTIST
PHYSICIST
HYDROLOGIST
DENTIST
ASTRONOMER
ELECTRICIAN
CHEMIST

The GCSE Science courses on offer:

AQA Combined Science (Triology)

AQA Separate Sciences

2 linked grades

Combined Science

Marks from all exams are combined

Both GCSE grades are the same or similar (i.e. 5-5 or 5-6)

3 separate grades

Separate Sciences

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

Why choose Combined Science?

- Provides the opportunity to gain an good understanding across a wide range of rich and relevant topics in three subjects
- Reduced workload (still sizeable), so more manageable around other studies
- **Can go on to study A-level Sciences** – many students do so very successfully each year
- Provides the opportunity to consolidate the Science topics learned in Year 9 and prepare in the best possible way to meet your potential in two Science GCSEs

The broad topic areas covered in GCSE Science:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Cell Biology	Atomic structure and the periodic table	Energy
Organisation	Bonding, structure and properties of matter	Electricity
Infection and response	Quantitative chemistry	Particle model or matter
Bioenergetics	Chemical changes	Atomic structure
Homeostasis and response	Energy changes	Forces
Inheritance, variation and evolution	The rate and extent of chemical change	Waves
Ecology	Organic Chemistry	Magnetism and electromagnetism
	Chemical analysis	
	Chemistry of the atmosphere	
	Using resources	

How are the courses examined?

Combined Science

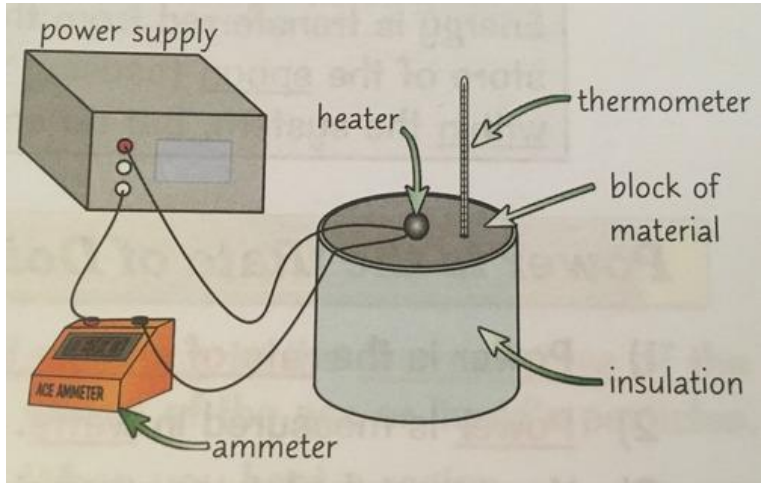
6 x 75 minute exams – 2 x Biology, 2 x Physics, 2 x Chemistry (16.7% each)

Separate Sciences

6 x 105 minute exams – 2 x Biology, 2 x Physics, 2 x Chemistry

No Coursework element – required practicals instead

The required practicals



Year 9 have already started content from the new specification GCSE and will have covered and some of the biology, chemistry and physics by the end of the year

Need to achieve a <u>strong grade 5 (minimum), preferably a grade 6</u> in the end of year exam in Year 9 to be a realistic candidate for the <u>Separate Sciences course.</u>

Foundation tier and Higher tier entries

- These are possible for both courses
- **Combined Science** – tier of entry must be the **same** for all subjects/exams in Science
- **Separate Sciences** – a ‘mixed’ entry can be used, e.g. Higher tier Biology, Higher tier Physics and Foundation tier Chemistry.
- The **Foundation** tier grades = 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and U (Ungraded).
- The **Higher** tier grades = 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4 and U.

Summary

Combined	Separate
2 GCSEs Foundation and Higher Tier entries possible	3 GCSEs Foundation and Higher Tier entries possible (inc. a mixed entry)
2 combined grades	3 separate grades
Learn biology/chemistry/physics	Learn biology/chemistry/physics
No coursework	No coursework
3 exams for each GCSE (= 6)	2 exams for each GCSE (= 6)
2 teachers	3 teachers
2 pieces of H/L per week	3 pieces of H/L per week
Can go on to study A levels sciences	Best preparation for A level sciences

What if I can’t make up my mind?

- Are you definitely looking to study A-level sciences?
- Do you enjoy being stretched and challenged?
- Can you manage your workload well?

GCSE Science

For more information please speak to your Year 9 teacher or contact p.Hambridge@roundwoodpark.co.uk or m.connor@roundwoodpark.co.uk