



Guru Nanak Multi Academy Trust Ltd

Incorporating:
Nanaksar Primary School &
Guru Nanak Sikh Academy
Founder – Sant Baba Amar Singh Ji

20th September 2021

Dear Parent

RE: Year 11 Science Mock Exams - Tiers

I am writing to inform you that all students in Year 11 will be completing mock GCSE exams in Science in the autumn term, dates to be confirmed.

This process is to help ensure that students are fully prepared for the GCSE exams and the rigour that they entail. It is vital that students prepare for these important mock exams because the results can affect the **tier of the GCSE** paper for which students are ultimately entered; the prediction of likely performance when preparing references. The exams will also give us a detailed picture of each student's current level of attainment in each subject and the subsequent steps that they need to take in order to make further progress.

Where GCSEs are tiered, it is important that students are entered appropriately. Available grades on foundation tier are 5 to 1 (5-5 to 1-1 in Combined Science) and available grades on higher tier are 9 to 4 (9-9 to 4-4 on Combined Science) with a narrow 'safety net' Grade 3 (4-3 in Combined Science) for those students who just miss Grade 4 (or 4-4).

In 2019, just under 4,500 students were ungraded on higher tier Combined Science, hence Ofqual have advised all schools the following:

“Higher tier students who do not achieve enough marks for that safety net grade will receive an unclassified result (U). Therefore, a student who is expected to achieve a grade 4 or grade 5 should be entered for foundation tier.”

It is important that students are revising for the subject and you are able to support us with the GCSE entry requirement for Science. For students to be entered on the higher tier, it is important that they aim to achieve a **6-5 in Combined Science** or a **Grade 6 in Separate Science**.

We expect students to bring all necessary examination equipment with them in a clear pencil case. Essential equipment includes **black pens, pencils, a ruler, a protractor, compasses and an eraser**. Students should also ensure that they have a **scientific calculator** as the use of a calculator is allowed for the Science exams.

Please take some time to go over this information with your child to ensure that they are fully prepared for their mock exams.

Yours faithfully

Dr M Alahyan
KS4 Coordinator of Science