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Headteacher: Mr Dean Webster
Chair of Governors: Mrs Rhona Dodds

Our ref: DW/GD

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Dear Parent and Carers,

It has been wonderful to see all Year 9 pupils commit themselves to their studies during this week's assessments. We can't wait to mark their papers and see the progress they have been making. I am sure on Monday and Tuesday, whilst your child is at home, they will have the chance to recharge their batteries after a challenging week. Teachers will be marking all assessments during Monday and Tuesday and we will be reporting home on performance in due course. I know you'll find this helpful.

Over the past two weeks, we have been discussing GCSE selections, ensuring pupils are as informed as they need to be at this point. Curriculum leaders have given more detail of their GCSE courses in assemblies and we are starting to explore interest. Parents will be properly informed during forthcoming events.

I have enclosed a **Mock GCSE selection form** for you to complete with your child and return by **Friday 4 December. This should be handed in to Mastery Tutors.**

Please remember this is merely to inform recruitment and measure the impact of our process for future years. Thank you for your understanding here and the positive comments received thus far. This should allow for some initial discussions at home. These selections are just to give us an indication of what you and your child are thinking now in terms of possible selections. **The selections are not binding and can be changed.**

As you will be aware, Science has 2 different pathways. Pupils can study either Separate Science which is 3 GCSEs or Science Trilogy which is 2 GCSEs.

The Separate Science route is 3 GCSEs, one in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Our advice is that if pupils are considering an A-level in a Science, then they should strongly consider this selection as the curriculum will give a good foundation for the future.

The Science Trilogy route is 2 GCSEs combining Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Pupils will be awarded two GCSEs in Science. This is still an academic route and is as challenging as the Separate Science courses. However, Science Trilogy does allow pupils to have an additional GCSE selection.

Whichever Science route our pupils take, they will be eligible to study A-Level in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, as long as they meet the Mercia Sixth Form entry requirements. We want to ensure pupils have choice here (where other schools push a certain route dependant on ability). Please note that further information will follow on all this. Remember, this is merely a check of initial preferences.

Finally, I know many local schools are struggling to maintain their curriculum offer during these difficult times, with year groups sent home and large numbers of staff self-isolating. We are truly blessed with amazing pupils, families and teachers who all follow all our routines and safety guidance to ensure disruption to teaching and learning is minimal. Thank you so much for all your support which will give your child an advantage. We are very much looking forward to planning ahead and supporting you all through the GCSE selection process.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Webster', written in a cursive style.

Mr D Webster
Headteacher