KEVI HANDSWORTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL SCIENCE FACULTY
KS4 course structure : September 2026 – June 2028

All students embarked upon the study of their GCSEs in Science subjects at KS3, particularly at the start of Year 9. They have had 4 periods in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics per fortnight, rising to 5 periods per fortnight in Years 10 and 11. In year 10 students continue the curriculum progression into full GCSEs. The courses are based upon the **AQA Specifications**, and final assessments will be by means of a series of terminal question papers (at the end of year 11) which contain a variety of question styles. As part of the course, students will perform or observe a number of '**required practicals**' (in addition to usual practical work); some examination questions will be related to these. There is no coursework component in any Science GCSEs.

Assessment schedule

Students have now sat their internal Year 9 'Finals' examinations in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These are in addition to the shorter Assessment Tests which have taken place during the year.

In Year 10, students are placed in broad ability bands, with ('parallel') Sets 1-3 being comprised of students who performed particularly well in their Year 9 Science examinations. Sets 4 and 5 are also two 'parallel' sets and Set 6 is a smaller set made up of students whose examination performances suggest that they would benefit from a higher level of individualised support. **All students will follow the same programme in Year 10**. The programme then followed by students in Year 11 will depend upon their performances in the end-of-Year 10 examinations and their mock examinations (taken in January of Year 11): they will either be entered for **Separate Sciences** or **Combined Science: Trilogy**

Separate Science route

Those students who perform well in the assessments will continue to follow a programme leading to the award of **GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics**. They will sit two 1 hour **45 minute** papers in each Science subject, each paper being worth 100 marks and consisting of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open-response questions. We expect that most students will follow this programme.

Combined Science route

Some students' performances may indicate that it will be in their interests for them to be prepared for entry into **GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy** instead of the separate Sciences. This is a double award qualification; it is worth two GCSEs. Students will sit two 1 hour **15 minute** papers in each Science subject, each paper being worth 70 marks and consisting of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open-response questions. As there is less content to be covered, there will be more time to consolidate and revise material during lessons. It should be noted that this route also allows students to embark upon the study of A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Support materials

Students have access to bespoke electronic textbooks for their Science courses on www.kerboodle.com, together with other resources such as Seneca, Cognito and Educake. Students have had the opportunity to purchase 'hard' copies of these textbooks at a discounted rate through the school; they are also available in the shops – look for Oxford separate GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics books, or the GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy books. Students can view and download the specification(s) and information about the courses from the website www.aqa.org.uk. Specimen and past examination papers are also available on the AQA website.

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Head of Science | Sep 2026