

1 February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Year 11 Science Enrichment Opportunity – Every Monday 2.30 – 3.30pm**

As you may be aware, Year 11 students in 2017 achieved record GCSE results across the academy, and did particularly well in their science examinations. For example, 88% of students achieved at least one grade between A\* - C in a science GCSE, and the number securing the highest A/A\* also reached record levels in the history of the school. Within science alone, the progress students made from primary school was in the top 9% of schools nationally, and in terms of overall attainment second in the North East. This was no accident of course! Such success was the result of fantastic hard work and commitment between students, teaching and support staff, and indeed parents. Students who experienced the most success did so by giving considerable time and effort in lessons, after-school and at home.

One of the most helpful ways for students to achieve or increase their highly aspirational target grades in science is by attending after-school Enrichment every Monday, between 2.30 and 3.30pm.

There are considerable demands of the completely new national qualification in science, which leads to 9-1 grades rather than A\*-G grades. There is a good deal more content than ever before, even more challenging questions, and there is no longer a coursework element. All rests on performance in the terminal exams. It is perhaps obvious that any extra support we can give to students will make a huge difference.

An extra hour per week with a science specialist to work on past examination questions and also to consolidate their learning, is something Year 11 valued highly and said as much in their 2017 Leavers' Exit Surveys. The high attendance at Science Enrichment sessions last year was one of the key reasons for fantastic results and why many students had individual successes.

I write to ensure you are aware that attendance to these sessions is designed for every student in Year 11, not just for particular students. For those who have been regularly attending, we encourage them to continue to do so, and thank them too! Students will rotate round a variety of staff looking at key topics and skills in this final run up to their GCSE exams starting in May 2018.

Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated in helping encourage your son/daughter to attend on a Monday after school in science.

Yours faithfully



Alison Chiverton  
Head of Science



Andrew Wappat  
Principal