

New science in years 7-9

KS3 science is changing...

The National Curriculum for key stage 3 science has changed. From September 2008 all schools in England and Wales must teach courses which match the new National Curriculum.

Reasons why it is changing...

All of us, as citizens, need to be able to cope with the science that shapes our lives. We are on the receiving end of scientific ideas and technical information in many different roles such as householder, parent, patient, voter or juror.

Some young people aspire to be scientists, or to work in careers where knowledge of science is essential. So educating the next generations of science practitioners is also crucial.

We are currently developing our new study programme to be exciting, relevant and a solid preparation for GCSE sciences and further study.

When learning science in years 7, 8 and 9, our students will be given opportunities to...

- research, experiment, discuss and develop arguments
- pursue an independent enquiry into an aspect of science of personal interest
- use real-life examples as a basis for finding out about science
- study science in local, national and global contexts, and appreciate the connections between these
- experience science outside the school environment, including in the workplace, where this is possible
- use creativity and innovation in science, and appreciate their importance in enterprise
- recognise the importance of sustainability in scientific and technological developments
- explore contemporary and historical scientific developments and how they have been communicated

Course structure

Skill areas

The new course we offer in years 7-9 will include the following key concepts...

- **Scientific thinking**
- **Applications and implications of science**
- **Cultural understanding**
- **Collaboration**

...and the following key processes...

- **Practical and enquiry skills**
- **How to understand evidence critically**
- **Communication**

Topic areas

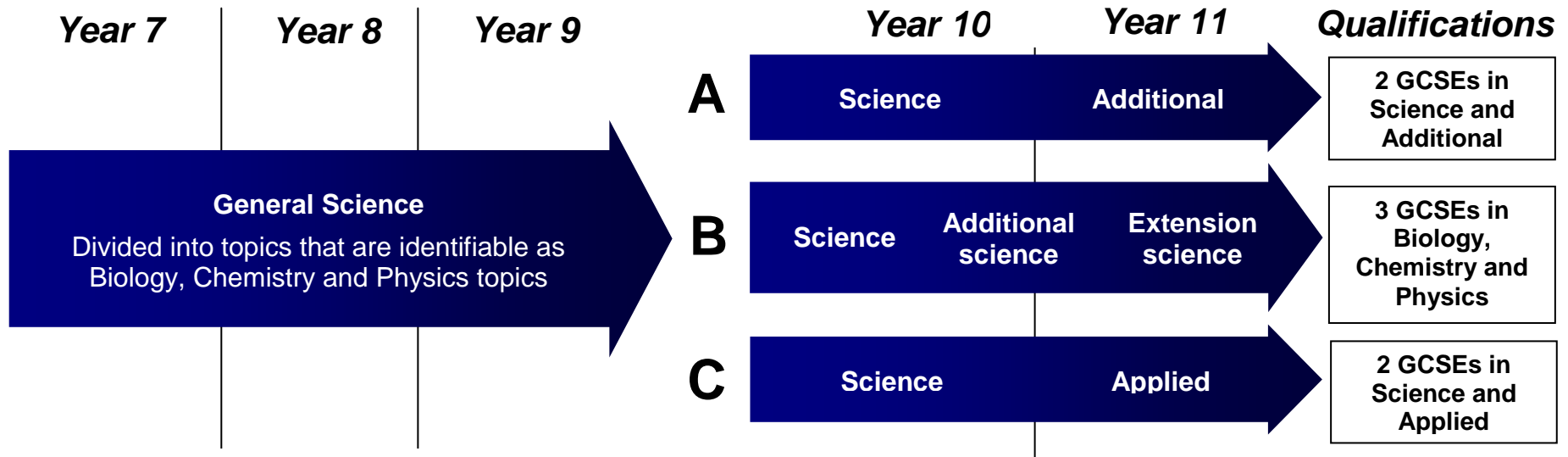
We will teach these using the many topic areas over years 7-9 and these will include...

- **Energy**
- **Electricity**
- **Forces**
- **Chemical behaviour**
- **Materials**
- **Organisms and their behaviour**
- **Health**
- **Environment**
- **The Earth and Universe**

KS4 (GCSE) science routes

In years 10 and 11 we teach the 21st Century Science suite of qualifications, examined by OCR. This course has been recently developed to prepare students to be well informed, scientifically literate citizens, for careers in science and for further study.

From September 2008 we will be extending our current offering to three routes for GCSE students. These are shown below...



Thinking Science and Learning Skills for Science

We will teach 'Thinking Science' (sometimes known as CASE) to students in year 7-9 to help support their thinking skills, not only in science but in other subjects too.

We are one of the first schools in the county to be introducing a new 'Learning skills for Science' programme into science lessons. This is a package that will help our students do even better in science and some of their other subjects. It is designed to teach students study skills that are useful in science and a number of other subjects.

Results in Science

We are really pleased with our results in science over the last few years, from key stage 3 SATs through GCSEs and A-levels in sciences. Like many subjects at Richmond School, we are particularly pleased with our KS3 science results in 2006, when 86% of our pupils achieved level 5 or better and in 2007 when 88% achieved level 5 or better. This is thanks to the hard work of the students and staff at Richmond School.