



Allerton Road
Trentham
Stoke-on-Trent
ST4 8PQ
Tel: 01782 883200
Fax: 01782 234537
Email: trentham@sgfl.org.uk
Website: www.trenthamhighschool.co.uk

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Science Coursework

Dear Parent/Carer,

At this time of the year your child will be sitting their controlled assessment in Science (ISA). This coursework is worth 25% of their overall grade and is therefore critical to their overall success in Science. Students sitting Double Award Science will have two pieces of coursework and Triple Award Science students will have three pieces of coursework to undertake.

It is essential that your child be present for every lesson over the next three weeks. Students missing from lessons will find it extremely difficult to catch up with the ISAs and as a result are less likely to be successful.

The ISA is split into 4 sections: a planning session; examination paper 1; practical and graph drawing followed by examination paper 2.

The planning session is key to fully understanding the context involved in the topic. Your child will investigate a hypothesis and plan an experiment to obtain data to either prove or disprove the hypothesis.

Students take examination paper 1 under controlled exam conditions. Students may use the notes made in the planning session to help them. They take this exam before any practical is carried out.

The experiment is carried out and results are obtained. These results are then used to draw a graph. It is vital that students pay particular attention to factors that may affect their results.



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Students take examination paper 2 under controlled exam conditions. Students use their results and planning sheet to help them to answer a set of analysis questions. Students also have to look at case studies, comparing data from other experiments with their own data.

To support your child with their ISA, your child was set a homework task over summer. The ISA workbook they completed, explains every section of the controlled assessment and gives examples of the types of questions that they are likely to face during the examination papers. Students also have access to further support materials on Firefly: Subject-Science-How Science Works- Year 11 ISA Support. In addition to this, AQA has examples of ISA past papers on their website including the mark schemes. These are an excellent method of preparation for your child.

If you have any questions about the controlled assessments in Science please do not hesitate to contact me through the school reception on 01782 883201.

Many thanks in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely

N Forman
Head of Science

