



RESILIENCE • RESPECT • INTEGRITY • COMMUNITY

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6th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Introduction to Science

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself having recently joined The Ongar Academy. I am the acting Faculty Leader for Science and Lead Practitioner. I am delighted to confirm The Science faculty is fully staffed and includes teachers who have a wealth of experience of working with GCSE students. I have worked as Faculty Leader for a number of years and have held many other academic roles in Science. We are also pleased to announce Mr. Pullen has joined the faculty, with a wealth of experience as a Lead Practitioner for Teaching and Learning, he was former Assistant Head of Year and is also a SSAT fellow.

The Science Faculty wants every student to achieve their potential. To that end, we are implementing a trialled and tested strategy to ensure all students have the possibility to reach this. This includes, but isn't limited to:

- Revisiting units and required practical's as part of home learning and class work;
- Regularly using exam questions in lessons to practice application of knowledge;
- Frequently revisiting numeracy skills that are essential to the subject;
- Offering afterschool intervention sessions as part of a whole school programme;
- Making all assessments summative so students have to revisit previously studied content;
- Providing students with aspirational percentage targets to achieve in all assessments;
- Providing a range of structured resources students can use to prepare for assessments.

The support and encouragement that you as parents/carers provide, is absolutely fundamental to your child's success in Science. I shall write to you half termly to update you on important events, and ways and means you can support your child. In this letter, I would employ you to explore the website www.senecalearning.com. Seneca is a fantastic resource that allows students to revisit content for all subjects. The website works on an algorithm, so if a question is answered incorrectly, it will be asked again in a different format later. To access the site, all students need to know is their course and tier of entry. For Science, all students study Combined Science Trilogy unless they are Triple Scientists where they study Biology, Chemistry and Physics instead. Little and often is the key to this website, and there is also a free APP version for revision on the move.

Thank you for your undoubting support as we start this new and exciting academic year.

Do not hesitate to contact your child's Science teachers if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Mr. P. Cooper

Acting Faculty Lead – Science
Lead Practitioner

