



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

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September 2021

Dear Parents

Year 7 - Welcome to Science at the Sir John Colfox Academy.

I thought I would take this opportunity to write to all Year 7 parents and let them know about some of the Key aspects of their child's science studies here at Colfox and to introduce you all to Kerboodle, which is our online learning platform and a vital part of their home support.

Science Journey

Your child is embarking on a 5-year journey through the world of science. I think it is important for parents to recognise that the work students do in Year 7,8, and 9 is vital to build the foundations and support for the work students later do at GCSE. I therefore attach for you a copy of the 5-year Curriculum that your child will follow. This shows all the units covered in Biology, Chemistry and Physics throughout the 5-year course. Science is a helical curriculum meaning that whilst we do re-cover key concepts again these are at a more complex level each time but if students miss out on the curriculum early on, they will struggle more when we go back to these topics later.

Science Setting

As you have already been made aware by Mrs Duffy, the students will be sitting CAT4 tests in the week commencing 27 September. We will also do baseline testing in science, in the week commencing 3 October. These tests will be held in the science lessons and will not require students to revise or prepare for the assessments. All knowledge revolves around their Key Stage 2 science studies. As a result of the CAT4 and science test data we will then look to re-set Science classes after the October half term to provide additional stretch and challenge and support as required.

Set 7A (Archimedes) will be for those students identified by their teachers as working at the top of the exceptional attainment target and whose journey in science will be following a pathway to grades 7-9 at GCSE.

Sets 7B (Bell), 7C (Curie) and 7D (Darwin) will be for students of varying ability and will be mixed classes. These students will be in the Attainment bands of Good and Developing.

Set 7E (Einstein) will be for those students who need additional support to access their science studies working at a slower pace to build deeper understanding and to support their needs moving up through the school and into GCSE.

Every set will be taught the same topics and all sets have the same access to the science curriculum. I will aim to send out the new science group lists as soon as possible following these assessments.

Kerboodle



The science department will be introducing your child to Kerboodle, our online resource for science over the next few days, I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce you to the world of Kerboodle so that you could also see the benefits this provides for your child, both as help for their homework and as a revision support for the termly assessments.

What is Kerboodle?

Kerboodle is an online teaching and learning platform (www.kerboodle.com), it provides students with access to good quality presentations, worksheets, support materials, auto-marked assessments, and self-assessment checklists as well as, most importantly, access to the textbooks they use in school.

How do students access Kerboodle?

To access Kerboodle your child will need their login details provided by their science teacher. Their login details will consist of a username, password, and an institution code. By default, their password will be the same as their username. This has been simplified to their initial and surname to get them all started. Students need to change this when they first log in. **E.g. Jo Bloggs would have a username of jbloggs and a password of jbloggs. The school ID code is gku4**

What are the benefits to our students?

- All science homework is set with Activate or GCSE textbook pages indicated.
- As Kerboodle provides online access to your child's in-school textbooks they should be able to quickly and easily complete homework tasks.
- They also have round the clock access to this textbook and can annotate this or highlight text on their book using the onscreen tools. It also gives them example worked questions, worksheets, interactive tools, podcasts videos and lots more.
- They can use this as a way of revisiting any units they know they have highlighted as weak during their classwork.
- It is particularly useful if your child is unwell; they can read about the work they will have missed in science and make notes using the textbook.

I would appreciate your support in encouraging your son or daughter to login to Kerboodle (perhaps with you to start with) and then to explore the resources available through this platform together if possible. Please see the link to our website <https://www.colfox.org/independent-learning-resources/> which has additional support to assist you with your exploring.

Year 7 have made a great start with us already exploring the skills and safety aspects of science, we really hope that our students enjoy their lessons and are as excited as us to explore the world around them.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further clarification regarding any of the issues raised in this letter. All of us in science, thank you for your support with your child's science

learning throughout their 5-year journey. Below I have provided email addresses for the lead teacher for each of the science sets, to allow you to contact your child's teacher directly if needed.

Yours sincerely



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