Ballakermeen High School

Chair of Governors: Mr Alex F Downie OBE
Head Teacher: Mr. Graeme Corrin BA (Hons) NPQH

St. Catherine's Drive
Douglas
Isle of Man
IM1 4BE
Telephone: 01624 648700
Email: bhsenquiries@sch.im
Website: www.bhs.sch.im

9th September 2024

Dear Parent or Carer

You may have read that an island wide decision was taken to move to the Edexcel Science specification from September 2022. This replaced the Cambridge iGCSE that was studied previously.

I am writing to make you aware that this qualification is graded differently, namely a 9-1 number system is used in place of grades A*-G. A grade '9' is the highest grade and a grade '1' the lowest. The table below highlights how the new 9-1 grades compare to the old A*-G.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	**GOOD PASS (DfE)** 5 and above = top of C and above
4	**AWARDING** 4 and above = bottom of C and above — C
3	D
2	E
	F
1	G
U	U

Some other important information:

1. All students will sit their exams at the end of Year 11
2. Students studying separate sciences will achieve a separate grade for Biology, Chemistry and Physics, therefore attaining 3 GCSEs
3. Students studying Combined science will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They will achieve a double award, worth 2 GCSEs
4. Students that study Separate and Combined science will have the opportunity to progress to A level
5. GCSE-9-1-Science-guide-for-parents.pdf is a useful guide for parents and will be made available on both our website and facebook page

How can I support my child to succeed in GCSE science?

1. Buy the discounted revision guide which will be available on Parent Pay in the next 2 weeks
2. Review your child's weekly science homework with them
3. Make sure your child regularly visits the specification which is available on the Google Classroom and is attached to their science exercise book
4. Complete exam questions and mark them available on google classroom

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Marshall
Faculty Leader of Science