

SCIENCE

Awarding Body: **AQA**

Specifications: **8461, 8462, 8463 (Separate Science) and 8486 (Combined Science)**

All Maynard pupils embark on AQA Separate Science GCSEs in Upper 4. Students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately over a 3-year period (Upper 4/Lower 5/Upper 5). This is an exciting and challenging course designed to make Science relevant to everyday life, while also offering academic rigour. Each of the three separate Science GCSEs will be graded using the new 1-9 system and will consist of two written examined units at the end of the Upper 5 year. There is no longer a practical controlled assessment within Science, however, pupils will conduct a number of Core Practical Activities in each Science subject, the details of which can be assessed in the written examinations. We believe this route offers the best support for moving on to A-level Science, should students choose to do so.

However, should the pace of the Separate Science route prove inappropriate for your daughter we may recommend that she follows the Combined Science GCSE route. This recommendation is likely to take place at the end of the Upper 4 year, and will be based on examination data as well as the professional judgement of subject teachers. The Combined Science route still entails pupils studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately, however less content is delivered in each Science subject therefore facilitating a slower pace and maximising pupil potential. Pupils following this route sit two shorter written examinations for each Science at the end of the Upper 5 year. The marks in the examinations are then combined and two Science GCSEs, graded using the 1-9 system, are awarded. The Combined Science route is still appropriate preparation for A-level Science.