



## **GCSE SCIENCES**

**Miss L James** Head of Biology  
**Mrs J Rostrup** Head of Physics  
**Mrs J Marsh** Head of Chemistry

### **General Introduction**

At Bruton all girls will study the three sciences at GCSE. They will be prepared either for Combined Science (that is, a double GCSE, which covers topic areas in all three sciences) or for separate qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics (three GCSEs).

Students are divided into divisions (sets) for Science and are entered for the level which is appropriate for their ability. The new science specifications will have a Foundation Tier (from grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (from grades 4-9)

### **Course Specification**

At present none of the exam boards have accredited science specifications! We currently use AQA but will make a final decision on the new course when they have been agreed by Ofqual. However, the provisional structure from each board is similar and is explained below.

### **Summary of course content and how it is assessed**

#### **Combined Science (two GCSEs)**

To gain two Science GCSEs pupils will take two 70 minute papers in each science discipline. Pupils will be awarded a single grade which counts twice.

#### **Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSE (three GCSEs)**

To gain each of these three GCSEs pupils will take two papers lasting 1 hour 45 minutes. Pupils will be awarded a separate grade for each science discipline. The material will be covered more quickly in this group.

### **Practical Assessment**

The new science GCSEs will require all pupils to complete a series of practical activities during the course. These will be written up in a special practical book which will be used as evidence of completion of this aspect of the course. There is no grade assigned to this aspect of the course but the school has to confirm that all this work has been carried out satisfactorily. The skills gained in the practical activities will be examined in the final papers alongside the subject content.

Please note that A level Science subjects are open to all girls who achieve a good grade regardless of their choice at GCSE. It is advisable that pupils who might consider going on to A level are competent in Mathematics.