SCIENCE

CORE SUBJECT: GCSE Combined Science

For their core science, Queenswood girls will follow the Edexcel GCSE specification for Combined Science, with all examinations being taken at the end of Year 11. The assessment consists of two written papers for each science (i.e. six papers in total), each of which is 1 hour 10 minutes.

Each science is taught separately by specialist teachers. Two GCSE grades are awarded, based on the average of the scores from each paper, which can be any combination of the new 9-point scale, e.g. (9,9), (7,6) etc.

The course has been chosen to develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, science. It also allows for a wide choice of career pathways as no individual science is excluded from study. It provides a sound base for the study of any of the sciences to A-Level, although additional support may be necessary at the beginning of the A-Level courses. All students are expected to have a broad and balanced scientific education, and this course ensures such a breadth.

Practical skills are separately assessed by "core practicals" which students will carry out as part of their normal laboratory work, during which students develop experimental skills based on correct and safe laboratory techniques.

There is no controlled assessment component to this course.

OPTION: GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics

This option is proving to be increasingly popular both nationally and at Queenswood. The course is designed for those who have a particular aptitude for, or special interest in, any of the three sciences. It is excellent preparation for A-Levels in science, and any scientifically-based career choice or degree pathway. The specification is the same as that for Edexcel GCSE Combined Science, with additional topics then being offered in each of the three sciences. All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11. The assessment consists of two written papers for each science (i.e. six papers in total), each of which is 1 hour 45 minutes.

Practical skills are separately assessed by "core practicals" which students will carry out as part of their normal laboratory work, during which students develop experimental skills based on correct and safe laboratory techniques.

There is no controlled assessment component to this course.