

## Secondary School

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Dear parents,

### **Science Department-Mid Year Report**

As we move into 2011 it is good to reflect on the first term. Last term was a time of change for the Science Department. In September we started with two new members of staff, namely John Shippen and John Brain with me as a new Head of Department.

In Key Stage 3 our Year 7 students have trialled a new form of assessment which involves testing and developing skills, this is known as formative assessment. This happens at the end of some units and in developing scientific method skills. There are still end of unit tests but this form of assessment compliments the traditional tests. This form of assessment will also be introduced to Years 8 and 9 in term two.

A number of our KS3 students have enthusiastically been experimenting in our after school activity Science Club and doing some very fun activities including making play dough and launching water rockets.

Our year 10 and 12 students have begun their IGCSE and IB courses and now have some idea of the level of commitment and effort that is required from them. Good habits developed at the start of their courses will allow them to reach their potential grades in the end of course exams next year.

Years 11 and 13 have a tense time over the next four months as they complete their courses, practice exam questions and of course, most importantly revise. The mocks in January are a very valuable guide to students and teachers as to the grade that students may obtain in their final exams. It gives students motivation to revise work from the entire course and gives them a real sense of the importance of revision, the standard required from the questions and the areas that they can improve. Of course over the next few months these students will feel under pressure but the key is to start revising early and find time to relax. All of the staff in the Science department will be trying to help, train and support their students at this very important time. After school revision classes will be starting later this term.

I am sure that term two will continue to build on the successes of term one with the effort and enthusiasm of our students and Science teachers. If you have any queries or wish to talk about any matter then please call or e-mail me.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Tarbuck