

Curriculum overview:

A high-quality science education provides the foundations for understanding the world through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. Through building up a body of key foundational knowledge and concepts, pupils are encouraged to recognise the power of rational explanation and develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena.

Year 9 is extremely important for Swanlea students, as they are now learning the skills and knowledge that will be examined in their GCSEs at the end of Y10. Furthermore, students will independently complete a controlled assessment - the results of which contribute to their overall GCSE grade.

Autumn Term: OCR Gateway Biology (B1) and Chemistry (C1) – human health, nervous system, variation and inheritance, plant growth, carbon chemistry, polymers, pigments and clear air.

Spring Term: Key scientific skills including planning, graph drawing, analysis, evaluation and conclusion writing. This is followed by the **controlled assessment**.

Summer Term: Completion of controlled assessment followed by OCR Gateway Physics (P1)- heating, electromagnetic spectrum, uses of waves. Top sets are likely to complete an additional unit.

Homework & assessments overview:

Homework is set weekly by teachers and will include worksheets, research tasks and pages from the GCSE revision book that will be handed out later this term.

Assessment is extremely important as it determines the type of GCSE that a student will be entered for (separate sciences, double award or BTEC). There will be two major mock exams, held on 5th Dec and 16th Jan, followed by the controlled assessment and an end of year exam in June.

Useful websites:

www.bbc.co.uk/education (BBC Bitesize - follow links to OCR gateway C1, B1 and P1)
www.docbrown.info/ (some great quizzes for chemistry, biology & physics)

Practical tips / activities for parents to support learning at home:

- Ensure that students are spending a good deal of time on their homework and revision for exams. Encourage them to use their revision book or BBC Bitesize if they are stuck and to seek help from teachers well before their homework is due.
- Watching science based programmes on television.
- Discussion of science in the news.
- Outdoor visits: there are a large number of **free museums**, nature reserves and parks in London including:
 - The Natural History Museum
 - The Science Museum
 - The Royal Museums Greenwich
 - The Horniman Museum