



Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School

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Success with Care

Headteacher: Mr M. J. Cooper

Dear parent/carer,

Firstly, may I say how delighted we are that your child has chosen to study science at A-level. We anticipate that over the next two years their enthusiasm and fascination for science will deepen a great deal.

As you may well be aware, A-level study requires a high degree of independence and commitment to personal study. This is most rewarding when students are well organised and foster their own 'love of learning'. The majority of our students develop excellent independent study skills. Experience has taught us, however, that some students struggle with organisation and this can affect them reaching their potential. I am, therefore, outlining our expectations and tips in terms of equipment and commitment to enable students to organise themselves most effectively.

Equipment and Organisation

Each A-level science requires students to have the following:

- A ring binder file
- Dividers
- A pad of A4 lined paper
- Plastic Wallets
- Scientific calculator
- Transparent 30cm ruler
- A fully stocked pencil case - a range of pen colours for notes and diagrams, a hole-punch and a glue stick are useful

Whilst there is access to computers and printers in school, having access to these at home is highly advantageous, as students will often be expected to print off work in advance of lessons. Students ideally should also have somewhere to study that is quiet and free from distraction. Students are expected to take on the '**twenty-hour challenge**', where they match lesson time with their own independent study. This means that for every subject, a student will have five hours in the classroom matched by five hours of their own independent study every week. They therefore need to plan their time wisely, particularly if they have extra-curricular commitments or paid work. This will also help them make sure they plan time to relax and have a social life!

The faculty will provide students with a laboratory book for practical work in each subject. This is a vital piece of evidence for a student to pass the practical component of the course. Students, therefore, are to look after this very carefully and make sure they bring it to all lessons.

Commitment

Students do best and enjoy A-levels more when they take the initiative in their own studies and foster their own love of learning. Whilst students will be set specific tasks for homework that will be marked, we expect students to review and consolidate their own learning on a near daily basis and read up on topics



in advance. We will guide them on how to do this, but the onus is very much on the student to make sure it is done. Underpinning all of this hard work should be a 'love of learning' and a 'thirst for knowledge'. Students should foster this by doing things such as: 'reading around' their subject in newspapers and magazines; watching relevant documentaries; visiting museums and university events and simply observing the world around them. There are also some superb you-tube science channels aimed at A-level students. The LRC is also well stocked with some fantastic popular science books.

Subject specific requirements

The chemistry textbook is available via online access through the school's VLE and should be sufficient. This covers the AS and A2 content. A limited number of hard copies are available from the LRC to borrow. Older physics textbooks are available from the library to borrow. These cover the AS content (A2 books will also be available for Y13). These contain the necessary content and are perfectly adequate for the course. However, if students would prefer the most up-to-date copy, these are available for purchase from the School Bookshop.

Due to the greater vocabulary, reading and note-taking requirements in A-level biology, *students are required to purchase the biology textbooks*. Furthermore, the textbook contains many practice questions, practical procedures and provide access to online material. Students also have access to the online 'Kerboodle' textbook.


Details of the different textbooks, revision guides and workbooks available can be found on the school website. Students are shown how to access this in their lessons. Books need to be ordered via the website, purchased via parentpay and then collected from the LRC. Purchasing through the LRC provides a discount. If students wish to buy textbooks from outgoing students, this is fine, but can only be done on an informal basis. Any queries about bursaries should be directed to Mr Howell, Head of Sixth Form.

We look forward greatly to teaching your child and wish them every success in their A-level studies.

Yours sincerely



Simon Hawkins
Head of A-level Biology



Christopher Shortman



Ruth Gowers