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20 October 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

Year 13 Chemistry

A significant amount of hard work has already taken place since September and we are pleased to see that great progress is being made. Boys have developed their practical skills and in the process produced important evidence in support of their Practical Endorsement which will sit alongside their A Level grade on their final certificate.

We believe that how effectively the boys use their self-supported study periods and time at home will be a major factor in determining their success in Chemistry. The boys have now all identified at least one double period each week where they will study Chemistry in the Science Classroom. Many boys are finding that this is a good place to work where they are able to access textbooks, scientific journals, past papers and other resources. Boys can obviously use this study time to undertake homework but if they have available time as many do, given the fact that most are now focussing on 3 A Levels then they should look to continue to consolidate their studies further.

We want to provide boys with really helpful suggestions, support and resources to enable them to use their study time effectively in addition to monitoring their study approaches. To aid this we have asked the boys that they keep a record of the activities that they are doing during their independent study time at home and in school. In addition they have also been provided with two 'independent study resources'. One of these resources covers the Rates and Equilibria topic which is presently being studied. The second covers the Organic Chemistry covered in Year 12 and its use will be ideal preparation for the year 13 Organic Chemistry work which will start in December. Each resource is broken down into topics areas which include the specification points listed, textbook references along with suggested independent study suggestions such as additional reading, video tutorials and past paper questions which in some cases have links to video explanations of how best to approach these questions. It is certainly not the intention that boys work through all of these resources, but instead we hope it will allow them to identify and consolidate specific areas which would benefit from some additional work.

We hope that the half term break enables your son to recharge his batteries so that he is able to study effectively during the second half of term.

Kind regards

Dr Emma Baker
Director of Science