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Dear Parents/Guardians

Year 13 Linear Chemistry

Your son has now received his prelim result and is aware of the grade boundaries. From marking the papers, it was evident that whilst some boys have consolidated some aspects of the course, there were other areas where further revision will be necessary. This is perhaps to be expected to some degree and Mr Rogers and I have spoken to the boys about our plan for the remainder of the course as we aim to provide the boys with useful guidance to support their preparation for the linear examinations in the summer. It is our experience that boys will often improve upon their prelim result by one grade, especially those who are close to the boundary. We are aware that some boys are hoping to exceed their prelim grade by more than one grade in order to secure their chosen degree course/job offer. Where this is the case, it is important to recognise that this is a huge leap, not often attained by students and an outcome that will only be secured with superb preparation and good exam technique.

We have reminded the boys that the linear exams are examined solely this summer and that they therefore need to ensure that they set aside sufficient time to revise the whole two years of course material. The revision required for the new linear exams is more extensive than has been required previously when the course was modular. We are suggesting to the boys that once they have completed their homework for the week then they should use any spare study time to cover the two years of course material in preparation for our revision programme which we expect will start before Easter. Boys have been given the attached sheet which we hope will help them to organise this work. They should be using the textbook to revise each topic, focusing on answering the end of chapter questions for which they have access to the mark schemes. For several topics we have produced independent study guides (with more still to come) and these can also be used to further improve knowledge and understanding within different topic areas. It is our recommendation for the majority of boys that they do this consolidation work before launching into the undertaking of past papers. Whilst attempting past papers is very useful most will be gleaned from their completion when knowledge and understanding is already good - they should not be used as a method of identifying what has and has not been learnt.

Once the course is completed then the boys will be engaged in a revision programme. During this programme the boys will be given further exam board practice papers including topic based multiple choice questions. In addition, they will undertake a range of different activities which we hope will support their preparation.

Please do contact me if I can be of any help.

Kind regards

Dr Emma Baker

Director of Science/Head of Chemistry

