

11th June 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Year 12 A-Level Biology/Chemistry/Physics Practical Endorsement

I am writing to inform you about the Practical Endorsement element of your daughter's or son's A level science course (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). To achieve a pass in this element of the course they have to complete a minimum of 12 practical tasks known as practical activity groups (PAG). It is a requirement of the exam board that each candidate is observed carrying out each practical task by their class teacher and demonstrates specific competencies. This requirement means that they must be in attendance for the tasks, and copying missed work from other students is not sufficient. We are required to monitor attendance and correct completion of these practical activities and if the student is absent it will be their responsibility to arrange another time with their teachers to carry out the missed task.

Each student keeps an appropriate record of their assessed practical activities in a laboratory book or folder that is kept in school, so that it is available for visiting monitors from the exam boards to inspect for quality assurance. Students who demonstrate the required standard across all the requirements of the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC) will receive a 'Pass' grade and this is recorded on their A level certificate independently of their A level grade.

The assessment of practical skills is a compulsory requirement of the course of study for A level qualifications in biology, chemistry and physics. Performance in the tasks does not contribute to the overall qualification grade but it is worth noting that many university and college courses are offering places on condition of passing the practical element of the course.

If there are any further queries about the practical endorsement please contact me.

Yours sincerely



Mrs R Nayyar
Head of Science