

30 September 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian

Due to the abolition of SATs exams, a new style of assessment called APP (assessing pupil's progress) has been introduced for Key Stage 3 pupils. This may be a familiar name as it has already been started in primary schools. It aims to allow teachers to accurately assess the level a pupil is working at and be able to give them targets to reach higher levels. Pupils will also be involved in APP and will be able to ascertain their own levels and set targets for themselves. APP has 5 major focus areas (AFs). Each of these examines the skills that pupils learn in order to become excellent scientists.

AF1 - Thinking scientifically

AF2 – Understanding the applications and implications of science

AF3 – Communicating and collaborating in science

AF4 – Using investigative approaches

AF5 – Working critically with evidence

APP assessment will be carried out in two ways: through peer and self-assessment during lessons, and through extended homework tasks. One of these tasks will be set per topic. The extended homework tasks are designed so that they concentrate on one AF. They have leveled criteria with them enabling pupils to see what is needed to reach a specific level. One of the APP tasks has been included so that you can see the format that these will take. We have already successfully trialed some of these tasks with pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9, and pupils have really liked the layout and ability to level their work. Alongside APP, pupils will also be completing an end of unit test to show their understanding of scientific context.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support in introducing this new style of assessment.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. C Cain

KS3 coordinator Science