

# Ballymena Academy Science Department

## Year 9 Science - Guidelines for Parents

### General Advice

#### In class pupils should bring

- ✓ A ring binder (for worksheets, notes and tests)
- ✓ Pencil case with pen, pencil, rubber, ruler and highlighter. Colouring pencils are useful.
- ✓ Learning Organiser



#### Homework

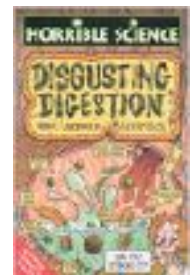
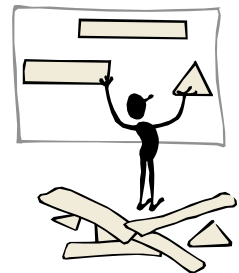
- ✓ Details written in Learning Organiser for the day it is due.
- ✓ Some teachers use a homework book, others use file paper.
- ✓ Use the Learning Organiser to help set out homework
- ✓ Write in blue or black ink; draw graphs and diagrams in pencil. (Use your Learning Organiser)
- ✓ You should sign your child's written homework each night.

#### Organisation

- ✓ As in Year 8, it is important to be organised for class each day – your child will have science twice in the week. Does your child need help in becoming more organised? Keep a copy of their timetable posted at home for easy reference.
- ✓ Be aware of the 'Year 9 Big Picture' – your child will have a copy in their file; also on the school website.

#### Revision

- ✓ For topic tests and examinations (see 'Year 9 Big Picture') your child should be an active learner – some ideas:
  - checking their work against learning outcomes for each topic
  - labelling blank diagrams,
  - reading and then listing the main points,
  - mapping out the main aspects of a topic
  - answering questions from text book
  - using a revision guide such as '**KS3 Bitesize**' (book or website)
  - writing definitions, key facts or equations on post-it notes and sticking them round the room
  - getting a parent to ask them questions from their notes
- ✓ You might consider buying a science dictionary or CD ROM as well as titles to encourage reading like the '**Horrible Science**' series.



#### Websites (Hold down CTRL + click for each of the links below)

(Adapted from '**At home with Science**' [www.planet-science.com](http://www.planet-science.com))

The World Wide Web is a fantastic place for learning, but for every perfect page there are a hundred dodgy ones. If you don't have Internet access at home, try the local library – many offer free access. Watch out for the temptation to just copy material from a website – make sure your child writes their homework in their own words.

#### [www.planet-science.com](http://www.planet-science.com)

Contains excellent resources for both students and parents, including games and activities that won't seem like school work (although full of curriculum links). There's also a great section on science careers called Next Steps.

#### [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/science/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/science/)

For loads of easy-to-digest revision activities and tests for Key Stage 3.

#### <http://www.dogonews.com/category/science>

Science news, pictures, puzzles and much more!



**Activities you could try based on the Year 9 science topics (also see 'The Big Picture')**  
**(Hold down CTRL + click for each of the links below)**

- **Earth in space**
  - Check out what is happening in the night sky this month;  
[http://hubblesite.org/explore\\_astronomy/tonights\\_sky/](http://hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/tonights_sky/)
  
- **Chemical character**
  - What metals are used in your home?
  - Find a colourful periodic Table on the Internet
  
- **Heat Transfer**
  - Find out why black things heat up more in the sun
  - Fill a travel mug or flask with hot water and a normal mug. Which stays warm the longest? Why?
  
- **Air and burning**
  - Survey your home for smoke detectors, fire blankets and fire extinguishers. What types of extinguisher do you have in different parts of the house?
  - Use <http://news.bbc.co.uk/weather/forecast/2084/?area=Ballymena> to find weather details, including some air pollution information, in Ballymena.
  
- **Gas exchange and respiration**
  - Find out about harmful effects of smoking: **Cancer Research UK** – Northern region, Federation House, 222 Queensferry Road, Edinburgh, EH4 2BN **or** **ASH**, Action on Smoking and Health, 102 Clifton Street, London, EC2A 4HW
  
- **Photosynthesis and food chains**
  - Visit one of these plant/animal centres - **press CTRL + click on link**
    - Belfast Zoo, ([www.belfastzoo.co.uk/](http://www.belfastzoo.co.uk/))
    - Castle Espie Wildlife Centre, ([www.wwt.org.uk/visit-us/castle-espie](http://www.wwt.org.uk/visit-us/castle-espie))
    - Ecos centre, ([www.ballymena.gov.uk/ecos/](http://www.ballymena.gov.uk/ecos/))
    - Exploris – Aquarium (Portaferry), ([www.exploris.org.uk/](http://www.exploris.org.uk/))
    - Seaforde Gardens Butterfly House, ([www.seafordegardens.com/](http://www.seafordegardens.com/))
    - Watertop Open Farm (Ballycastle), ([www.watertopfarm.co.uk/](http://www.watertopfarm.co.uk/))
    - World of Owls (Randalstown Forest) ([www.worldofowls.com/](http://www.worldofowls.com/))