



# Penistone Grammar School

Never Stop Flying

Principal: Mr P Crook (B.Ed Hons)  
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Achieving Excellence through a Values Driven Education

Ref: GUN/CWA

Date: 12 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer of [StudentFullName]

We are looking forward to seeing you for our Options Evening on Thursday 15th January.

We are particularly keen to see you and [StudentForename] there, as we are keen for [StudentForename] to opt to study Separate Sciences for one of their GCSE options. [StudentForename] has shown, in their Key Stage 3 work so far, the potential to be very successful in Separate Science at Key Stage 4.

With the Separate Sciences, students will achieve 3 distinct GCSE grades rather than 2 from Combined Science. Although the Separate Science exams are slightly longer, opting for this course will mean students will have fewer subjects to study for, and students have really appreciated this during previous exam periods.

Last year 41% of all post-16 students at PGS studied one or more of the Sciences at A-level. Although students who study Combined Science at GCSE level are able to progress through to A-level Sciences, in last year's Y13 cohort the students who studied Separate Science for GCSE achieved, on average, 2 grades above those who studied Combined Science. The Separate Sciences are broader than the Combined course and cover content in greater depth. Overall this leads to an advantage at A-level.

Making this choice now would be beneficial in the long term to [StudentForename] as the Separate Science qualifications are held in high academic regard by colleges, apprenticeship providers and employers, regardless of what a student chooses to pursue at Post 16.

If you or [StudentForename] have any questions, please ask [StudentForename] to see Mr Unwin (Curriculum Area Leader for Science) or Dr Pickersgill (Assistant Curriculum Area Leader for Science) and we will be happy to speak to them. We want each individual student to study the best courses for them and will assist with these choices in any way that we can.

Yours sincerely,

**Gareth Unwin**  
**Curriculum Area Leader for Science**