

A-Level Biology

Course introduction

The study of Biology allows the student to develop a greater understanding of the organisms around us and the complexities of their interactions. It also helps us to understand the working of our own bodies and how they have been sculpted by the processes of inheritance and evolution.

Course Content

We follow the AQA Biology curriculum which includes many modern aspects of Biology. The units studied are as follows: Units 1-4 are studied in Year 12, Units 5-8 at in Year 13.

Units 1 – 4

Biological molecules

Cells

Organisms exchange surfaces with the environment

Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Units 5 – 8

Energy transfers in and between organisms

Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments

Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems

The control of gene expression

A-Level Practical assessment

All students are expected to complete 12 required practicals. Each practical allows students to use different apparatus and techniques. There may be exam questions on the required practicals but 100% of the qualification is exam based. A separate endorsement of practical skills will be taken alongside the A-Level and will be assessed by teachers based on observations and the work produced in the students' lab book.

Field Work

An important part of studying biology is the development of field work skills. During the summer term of Year 12 students are required to attend a residential where they will complete a study into succession using various sampling techniques. Details of this field trip will be provided at the start of the course.

Where does it lead?

The study of biology is perfectly suited to following the careers in medical and biomedical fields and environmentally based occupations, as well as academic research and education.

Further Information

If you would like to discuss any of the above information further, please contact Mrs Clarke.

