

**Overview:**

Biology is the window into the fascinating world of living organisms and the science of life. Biology covers anatomy and physiology of the human body, alongside vital issues of the Twentieth Century, including how different species interact, the importance of conservation, DNA and gene technologies, and stem cell research.

Year 1 Units:

Development of Practical Skills in Biology, Foundations in Biology, Exchange and Transport, Biodiversity, Evolution, and Disease are some of the key topics covered in first year of the course.

Year 2 Units:

The units in year 2 of the course also include topics such as communication, homeostasis, respiration, photosynthesis, nerves and hormones, genetics, ecosystems, and practical research. The assessment consists of three written examinations and a practical endorsement.

Expectations:

In order to be best prepared for A Level study, students are expected to complete a bridging activity from GCSE to A Level before the course commences. In lessons students are required to carry out a number of practical tasks, both in groups and independently. Students will need to reflect on their own work and evaluate others, being prepared to articulate results and conclusions. Prior reading is mandatory before each lesson. Extended reading and annotations of notes is also expected on top of regular homework and students are required to regularly assess their learning against the specification.

Extra-Curricular Activities/Independent Learning Opportunities:

Further interest in Biology is generated by extracurricular events, such as visits to zoos, biotechnology research laboratories, and the Biology Olympiad. Equally students have the opportunity to attend biological lectures and act as mentors or role models through the Biology Ambassadors role.

Career Pathways:

Studying Biology at A Level can lead to careers in Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Physiology, Ecology, Pharmacology, Immunology, Biochemistry, Environmental Science, Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Marine Biology, Sport Science, Genetic Engineering, and Biotechnology.

Good combinations of other subjects to study with Biology are:

Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Geography, Psychology.

Student Testimonials:

"Biology is brilliant as you dive deeper into how living organisms work and function. It is really interesting and the teaching is the best!"

"I enjoy studying Biology as it allows me to explore my passion for the interactions between organisms and the human anatomy."