

Biology

A Level: Level 3

This Course

Biology is a very popular choice after GCSE. It is both interesting and challenging, stimulating students into developing a wider interest in the subject.

In the first year of the course, students will learn about biological molecules, expand their knowledge about cells and how organisms exchange substances with their environment, genes, variation and relationships in an ecosystem. In the second year of the course topics taught concern energy transfers in and between organisms, how organisms respond to changes in their environment, as well as genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems, with a final topic on control of gene expression.

Alongside the study of these units, students are also assessed on their practical skills. This is a compulsory requirement of the course. It will appear on all students' certificates as a separately reported result, alongside the overall grade for the qualification.

The written examinations will consist of three exams at the end of Year 13.

Why Biology?

Studying Biology in the Sixth Form is a pathway to a wide variety of degrees, higher qualifications at universities and other institutions.

Biology students may like to consider the following courses among others: anatomy, animal behavior, biological sciences, biomedical sciences, biotechnology, marine biology, botany, microbiology, dentistry, toxicology, food studies, genetics, medicine, midwifery, neurosciences, nursing, pharmacology, physiotherapy, psychology, sports and exercise science, or veterinary science. The transferable skills gained from a degree in science subjects are highly valued in the corporate world.

What's expected from me?

We expect enthusiasm, personal organisation and dedication. Students need to demonstrate that they are keen to learn, to make progress and to be actively involved in all aspects of the course. They will need to plan ahead to meet deadlines, be independent in expanding the breadth and depth of their knowledge and be pro-active in identifying areas for development.

Entry requirements for A Level Biology: students should have a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology, or 6-6 or above in GCSE Combined Science. A Grade 6 or better in GCSE Mathematics is also required, as well as a Grade 5 in GCSE English.