



Biology [Linear]

OCR: Course Code H420

Contact: Ms J Box

Course Outline:

A-level Biology provides a flexible approach to teaching. The specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of biology. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they are assessed through the written papers.

The course content is split into six modules:

Module 1 – development of practical skills in Biology. Throughout both years 12 and 13 pupils will complete a total of 12 compulsory practicals, which will allow you to apply your knowledge from a range of module areas.

Module 2 – Foundations in Biology which introduces key concepts such as cell structure, biological molecules, nucleotides and nucleic acids, enzymes, biological membranes and cell division.

Module 3 – This unit builds on the core knowledge of module 2 to introduce exchange and transport of substances in animals and plants.

Module 4 – starts by looking at diseases, specifically the immune system and then moves on to look at biodiversity, classification of species and evolution.

Module 5 – this unit is typically undertaken in year 13 and looks at communication, homeostasis and energy. We will look in detail at the processes of photosynthesis and respiration as well as neuronal communication.

Module 6 – In the final unit we introduce the idea of cellular control, genetics including cloning and biotechnology, then moving onto ecosystems, populations and sustainability.

Assessment Framework:

A-level reforms that came into place for courses starting in September 2015 mean that external assessment will take place at the end of the course.

This A-level is assessed at the end of year 13. There will be 3 examination papers assessing the work covered in both years 12 and 13. The compulsory practical element of the course will be judged separately and will not contribute to the final exam grade.

Course Entry Requirements:

Biology 6 and Maths 6 or Combined Science 6,6 and Maths 6. A 5 may be considered but the final decision will be with the sixth form team.

Why Study A-level Biology?

Students who take A-level Biology can go on to study veterinary science, medicine, optometry psychology, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, physiotherapy, sports science, microbiology, forensic science, biophysics, genetics, neuroscience, botany, zoology, ecology and environmental science and of course, biology.