RIPLEY ST THOMAS
A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Key Stage: 5

Subject: Biology

Aims of the subject:

A-level Biology is a challenging, rewarding course that helps students develop skills and knowledge necessary for a successful career. It offers students freedom, creativity and opportunity for independent progression from GCSE Science or Biology. This course allows all students to show what they can do, as well as being suitable for those looking for a challenge. A-level Biology builds on the concepts and skills developed in the GCSE and it is particularly suitable for students who have the skills and knowledge associated with a GCSE Combined Science course or equivalent. Students who study A-level Biology may go on to a Biology-related degree course. The specification presents essential principles in contexts that students find interesting. We aim to stimulate the enthusiasm of students from the start. The course emphasises the way in which scientists work and the contributions of science to modern society in a way that underpins the specification but is never intrusive, allowing the teachers to discuss the moral, social, economic and ethical impacts of some subject matter. We aim to mould the students into scientists who are capable of investigating questions, analysing data and presenting their findings using scientific literacy skills.

A-Level Examination Board: Edexcel Biology B

Assessment Overview:

- Three papers will be sat at the end of Year 13.
    - Paper 1: Advanced Biochemistry, Microbiology and Genetics (90 marks) 1 hour 45 mins
    - Paper 2: Advanced Physiology, Evolution and Ecology (90 marks) 1 hour 45 mins
    - Paper 3: General and Practical Principles in Biology (120 marks) 2 hours 30 mins

Course	What will I study?	Assessment
Year 1	Biological molecules Cells, Viruses and Reproduction of Living Things Classification and Biodiversity Exchange and transport	Topic tests at the end of each topic will assess both factual recall and application of knowledge. These assessments will also have a synoptic nature. 2 x mock exams.

Year 2	Energy for Biological Processes Microbiology and Pathogens Modern Genetics Origins of Genetic Variation Control Systems Ecosystems	Topic tests at the end of each topic will assess both factual recall and application of knowledge. These assessments will also have a synoptic nature. 2 x mock exams.

Enrichment opportunities

Visiting speakers are invited in throughout the year & trips to hear and participate in engaging sessions are run.

Student support sessions.

Mentoring of Year 7 and 8 pupils completing the Springboard Science scheme, designed to stretch and challenge our younger pupils.

Biology Olympiad.

Malham Tarn Field Centre Residential

Suggestions for wider reading

Revision guides are available.