



Key Stage: 4

Subject: GCSE Biology (Combined Science)

Aims of the subject:

This subject gives students the chance to gain a good understanding of human biology, organisms, evolution and the environment. The course helps put Biology in the context of students' everyday lives with topics ranging from 'Keeping healthy' to 'Humans and their environment'.

The specification is based on a series of topics related to the living world and is very relevant to students who study it. It is designed to help them understand how Science can be used to explain the world in which they live and the impact humans have. As teachers of Biology we strive to imbed the moral, ethical, social and religious contexts of the subject into our everyday teaching. This gives the students a basis to understand the wider impact of Biology and helps them to make informed opinions, whilst improving their ability to debate and write scientifically.

GCSE Examination Board:

Assessment Overview:

Paper 1. 1 hour 15 minutes

Topics 1–4: Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response and Bioenergetics.

Paper 2. 1 hour 15 minutes.

Topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution and Ecology.

Year	What will I learn?	Assessment
Year 9	Term 1 Cell structure and transport across membranes.	End of topic tests and synoptic half term assessments.

	<p>Term 2 Cell Division and stem cells.</p> <p>Term 3 Digestion, circulatory system and transport in plants.</p>	<p>End of topic tests and synoptic half term assessments.</p> <p>End of topic tests and synoptic half term assessments.</p>
Year 10	<p>Term 1 Communicable diseases and treating diseases.</p> <p>Term 2 Non-communicable disease and photosynthesis.</p> <p>Term 3 Respiration and the human nervous system</p>	<p>End of topic tests and synoptic half term assessments.</p> <p>End of topic tests and synoptic half term assessments.</p> <p>End of topic tests and synoptic half term assessments.</p>
Year 11	<p>Term 1 Hormonal control and homeostasis in action</p> <p>Term 2 Reproduction, variation, evolution and genetics.</p> <p>Term 3 Adaptations, interdependence, competition and ecology</p>	<p>End of topic tests and synoptic half term assessments.</p> <p>End of topic tests and synoptic half term assessments.</p> <p>End of topic tests and synoptic half term assessments.</p>

Extra-curricular opportunities

Biology challenge.

How you can support your child's progress

Revision Guides can be purchased from school.

Ensure your child has completed their homework tasks, and if they are struggling to direct them immediately to their online textbooks. If they are still struggling ensure they speak to their teacher straight away for assistance.

Engage with your child's learning, by helping them where possible. Also allow them sufficient time to access revision materials and complete their homework, by providing them a quiet place to work.

Encourage your child to revise the content regularly throughout the course and prepare thoroughly for each synoptic half term assessment.