



Course Requirements:

Sixth Form Entry Requirement
Separate Science requirements:
GCSE Biology – Grade 6 plus
one other Science Grade 6
or
GCSE Combined Science – Grade 66

Essential additional requirements:
GCSE Mathematics – Grade 5
(from a Higher Paper)

Syllabus: Edexcel

Who to Contact:
Mrs K Pinder - Course Leader

Overview

A Level Biology follows the Edexcel specification and builds upon the concepts and skills developed in GCSE Science. The course presents biological principles in contexts that students will find interesting and engaging.

Biology is both fascinating and challenging and we aim to develop students' interest in and enthusiasm for Biology including an interest in further study and careers in the subject.

Lesson content is varied and typically may involve discussion, group presentation, role play, reading, exam preparation, practical activity, observation and biological drawing. It is expected that you will have an interest in the subject and be prepared to learn independently.

Year 13 also requires students to take part in a residential field course, during which, compulsory content will be taught.

Structure

A Level Year 1

Topic 1: Biological Molecules
Topic 2: Cells, Viruses and Reproduction of Living Things
Topic 3: Classification and Biodiversity
Topic 4: Exchange and Transport

A Level Year 2

Topic 5: Energy for Biological Processes
Topic 6: Microbiology and Pathogens
Topic 7: Modern Genetics
Topic 8: Origins of Genetic Variation
Topic 9: Control Systems
Topic 10: Ecosystems

Assessment

Assessment will take place at the end of year 2 in the form of 3 papers.

Paper 1

Advanced Biochemistry, Microbiology and Genetics
(90 marks) 1 hr 45 mins

Paper 2

Advanced Physiology, Evolution and Ecology
(90 marks) 1 hr 45 mins

Paper 3

General and Practical Principles in Biology
(120 marks) 2 hr 30 mins

As part of the course you will undertake a series of required practicals and you will be assessed on how competent you are at a range of skills. Whether this aspect of the course has been 'passed' or 'failed' will appear on the A Level certificate alongside the A Level grade.

You

Candidates will be expected to recognise, recall and demonstrate understanding of subject knowledge; apply such knowledge to unfamiliar situations and demonstrate ethical and safe practical skills.

You will also be required to be dedicated and committed to studying Biology.

Career opportunities are extremely varied. School leavers have gone on to study medicine, biochemistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, sports science, nursing and paramedic medicine.