



## 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:** AQA

**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.