Biology

AQA A Level Biology

Course Description

A challenging, fascinating and inspiring two years will be spent learning about living organisms. The course is split into 8 units spread over the two years. In every sub-topic we support students to build on their foundational GCSE knowledge and develop this into more advanced 'A' level understanding and dialogue. We offer students insights into the real world of biological research through reading of carefully selected journal articles to enable them to recognise how what they are studying fits into the wider research community.

Embedded within every topic are opportunities for both teachers and students to assess progress using real past paper questions and grade boundaries. This allows both the teachers and students to pinpoint content and skills that need to be prioritised to enable more progress to be made.
Lessons will consist of clear, step-wise teaching, use of visualiser to support student access to understanding of complex biological processes. A wide variety of learning activities suited to the content being delivered will be used to meet the students' needs. In addition, students will complete a minimum of 12 required practicals.

Students will move from being supported and guided by the teacher at the start of Year 12 to being in a position of autonomy over their own investigations by the middle of Year 13, thus developing them as practical scientists. Once completed and assessed by their teachers, this should lead to a Science Practical Endorsement Qualification, something highly valued by universities.

Course and topic checklists are provided to enable students to track their progress and to ensure that their notes are kept meticulously tidy within their folders. Every student has a helpful textbook and one-to-one intervention is given to any students who are set to achieve lower than their target grade.

Methods of Assessment

To achieve an A Level in Biology: Three exams at the end of Year 13, each lasting two hours and each worth one third of the grade.

- Paper 1 consists of content from topics 1–4 including relevant practical skills.
- Paper 2 consists of content from modules 5–8 including relevant practical skills.
- Paper 3 is a synoptic paper including content from any of the 8 topics and an essay question worth 25 marks.

Progression

This is a well-respected qualification and would look impressive on anyone's CV. Biology-related careers include doctors, nurses, midwives, physiotherapists, veterinarians, farmers, biotechnologists, forensic scientists, biomedical scientists, nutritionists, marine biologists and environmental scientists etc.

Student Testimonial - Nicole

I chose to study Biology because it provides a strong foundation for understanding life and opens the doors to countless opportunities for future study and careers. Throughout my study of the subject, I am constantly fascinated by how Biology reveals the complex mechanisms behind simple life processes such as breathing, movement, digestion, etc. What I also love about Biology is the wide range of topics it provides. From, zoology and microbiology to genetics and ecology, Biology allows students to explore different areas and discover their personal interests. Overall, Biology has given me the chance to uncover the wonders of the world around me while discovering my own passions along the way.

Class of 2024-25