

# Biology A Level



## Features of the Course:

We follow the AQA Biology course, which emphasises the way in which biologists work and the contributions of Biology to society.

In the first year you will study 4 units, during which you will undertake various practical activities designed to sharpen your investigative skills. These topics give a solid grounding in Biology.

Year two helps you build on that firm foundation and, like year one, has 4 units plus practical work.

The Biology A level course helps you develop a number of skills:

- How to collect data and evaluate it
- How to investigate facts and use deduction
- How to put over your point of view effectively

### Year 12 Topics:

Topic 1: Biological molecules

Topic 2: Cells

Topic 3: Organisms exchange substances with their environment

Topic 4: Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

### Year 13 Topics:

Topic 5: Energy transfers within and between organisms

Topic 6: Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments

Topic 7: Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems

Topic 8: The control of gene expression

## Methods of Assessment:

### For the A Level:

3 exam papers at the end of two years:

Paper 1: 35% of the A level, examining topics 1-4

Paper 2: 35% of the A level, examining topics 5-8

Paper 3: 30% of the A level, examining topics 1-8

### Practical skills assessment:

There are 12 required practical assessments during the 2 years, knowledge of which will be tested in the written papers. You will also be assessed against CPAC criteria to gain a practical skills endorsement alongside your A level grade.