Biology A Level

Course Description:

We follow the AQA Biology course, which emphasises the way in which biologists work and the contributions of Biology to society. It covers a wide range of topics including human and plant physiology, biochemistry, genetics, the diversity of life and ecosystems and builds on knowledge gained at GCSE; it will also include a field trip in the summer of Year 12 as well as other trips to see biology in use.

Qualifications Required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. Grade 6 in Biology and at least a Grade 6 in Chemistry or Physics, **or,** two Grade 6s in Combined Science. A Grade 5 or above in English and Maths is also required.

Aims of the Course:

- Provide an understanding of the structure, function, diversity and interaction of living organisms
- Develop a scientific approach to problem solving
- Develop the practical skills needed to work with apparatus, biological material and living organisms
- Develop an appreciation of the nature of living material and encourage an interest in the study of living organisms
- Develop an understanding of the technological applications and of the social and environmental aspects of Biology
- Provide a scientific and biological training, either as an end in itself or as a foundation for more advanced study

Future Prospects:

With an A level in this subject you can progress on to Science degrees or apprenticeships. Biology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in health and clinical professions, such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, pharmacy, optometry or nursing, or a career in zoology, marine biology, food production or forensic science.

Student Feedback:

'Biology challenges your perception of the living world around you.'

'It's improved my analytical research skills and given me a strong foundation for a career in science.'

Biology A Level

Features of the Course:

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
- How to take responsibility for your own learning

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.