Biology

COURSE OVERVIEW

Biological science is always at a very exciting stage of development. Every week some new discovery in genetics is reported, as well as developments in areas such as medicine, agriculture and environmental management.
The A level Biology course will take a closer look at many of these important issues but will also cover the fundamental principles needed to understand the science behind the headlines.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS DEVELOPED

A **level Biology** provides a solid grounding in analytical thinking, writing reports and clear communication. Throughout the course students will also have opportunity to learn, practise and demonstrate a range of practical skills. As well as helping with the understanding and learning of biological concepts these practical opportunities will also help students gain a deeper understanding of the process of scientific enquiry and improve teamwork skills.

Topics studied

Year 12

1 - Biological Molecules
2 - Cells
3 - Organisms, exchange and transport
4 - Genetic information, variation and relationships

Year 13

5 - Energy transfer between organisms
6 - How organisms respond to change
7 - Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8 - The control of gene expression

Qualification: A-Level

Awarding Body: AQA

ASSESSMENT METHOD

A Level Biology is assessed through three exams at the end of the course – there is no coursework. Each exam is 2 hours long and provides an opportunity for students to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding
- Apply knowledge
- Analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information

Paper 1 – Topics 1- 4

Paper 2 – Topics 5 - 8

Paper 3 – This paper is synoptic and includes content from topics 1 – 8. Students will also write an essay.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

The vast majority of recent graduates in biological sciences have found
employment in which their subject knowledge is relevant.
Employment opportunities are to be found in areas such as:

- Medicine & Veterinary Science
- The Health Service
- Environmental Science
- Genetics / Genetic Engineering
- The Food & Drink industry
- Pathology and Forensics

"A level Biology is not easy but I love the fact that the course is so varied and relevant. As well as covering many different topics we also do lots of different activities in lessons. Biology can be challenging, but it's not boring!"