



Biology

Overview

Biology is the window into the fascinating world of living organisms and the science of life. Biology covers the anatomy and physiology of the human body, alongside vital issues of the Twentieth Century, including how different species interact, the importance of conservation, DNA and gene technologies, and stem cell research.

Students will follow the OCR Biology A level course (code H420)

Year 1 Units:

Development of practical skills in biology, foundations in biology, exchange and transport, biodiversity, evolution, and disease.

Year 2 Units:

Communication, homeostasis, respiration, photosynthesis, genetics, ecosystems, and practical research.

The assessment consists of three written examinations and a practical endorsement.

Expectations

In order to be best prepared for A Level study, students are expected to complete a bridging activity from GCSE to A Level before the course commences. In lessons, students are required to carry out a number of practical tasks, both in groups and independently. Students will need to reflect on their own work and evaluate others, being prepared to articulate results and conclusions. Prior reading is mandatory before each lesson. Extended reading and annotations of notes is also expected on top of regular homework and students are required to regularly assess their learning against the specification.

Extra-Curricular Activities/Independent Learning Opportunities

Further interest in biology is generated by extracurricular events, which may include visits to zoos, biotechnology research laboratories, and the Biology Olympiad. Equally, students can extend their biological knowledge through biological lectures/talks from people with a variety of professional biology backgrounds.

Entry Requirement: In addition to the entry requirements mentioned in the Sixth Form Prospectus, you will need to attain a grade 6 or higher at GCSE Biology, or a grade 6,6 or higher in GCSE Combined Science to take this course.