

Biology: A-level (Awarding Body AQA)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

We expect students to have a grade 6 or better in GCSE Biology or GCSE Combined Science. We require students to have at least a grade 5 in GCSE English Language and at least a grade 6 in GCSE Maths.

CONTENT

First Year

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Second Year

- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Genetics, population, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

You will sit three exams at the end of Year 13. These exams will assess subject content from all eight topics and include questions on the practical tasks embedded across the two years.

Through the course you will be assessed on your experimental technique through 12 required practicals which take place in normal lesson time. These will contribute to your Practical Endorsement certificate which you receive at the end of your course.

PROGRESSION

Biology is a great subject choice for people who wish to pursue a career in Health and Clinical professions, such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Optometry, Nursing, Zoology, Marine Biology or Forensic Science.

GENERAL COMMENTS

At the end of Year 12 we go on a residential field trip to the North Yorkshire coast to carry out fieldwork. This forms part of the Unit 7 work. In Year 13 we visit LifeLab in Newcastle to study advanced techniques in DNA technology. Biology involves a lot of practical work to enable you to develop good scientific techniques. There are also many classroom-based lessons to help you develop independent learning.



"By choosing A-level Biology you are able to open up and expand your knowledge into many different fields of study. It also gives you a wide variety of options when deciding how to continue your education and future into Biology and Biological Sciences. From Biology, I have been able to put theoretical ideas into practice which allows for a deeper understanding of the knowledge. Alongside Biology there are many opportunities to further extend your knowledge outside of the specification, including Biology field trips, taking part in dissections and the Biology book club which are all led by our supportive and devoted teachers. My aim is to study medicine and I've found Biology to be a great help when addressing theory, practicality and ethics in a variety of scenarios."

MOLLY COX

