

What is the course about?

Biology covers a wide range of topics, from investigating the molecular and cellular functioning of living organisms to the interactions between populations and whole communities of animals and plants.

Students will gain a strong understanding of biological concepts but also develop the skills to describe, explain, predict and analyse the biotic and abiotic factors which influence the world.

Course content

Students study topics including:

- Biological molecules, DNA, cells and the immune system exchange and transport, genes, genetic diversity and biodiversity.
- Detailed study of photosynthesis, respiration, energy transfer in ecosystems.
- In-depth analysis of inheritance, gene expression and the development and application of gene technology.
- Homeostasis, muscles, the nervous system, and whole organism biology including taxis, population biology and ecosystem ecology

There is an important focus on developing practical skills with students needing to complete a series of 12 required practicals and a residential field course.

Assessment

Three terminal examinations.

Successful completion of a series of practical activities will lead to the student being awarded a practical endorsement to the A Level.

Career pathways

Study biology or science related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: agriculture, ecology, zoology, plant sciences, biotechnology, food science, and marine biology, research into cancer cures, or conservation of endangered animals.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least 6-6 in Combined Science.