

Biology

Subject Leader: Mrs D Shuttlewood

Exam Board: AQA

A Level

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from micro-organisms to mammoths. Biology is a dynamic subject never far from the headlines.

In the first year you will study 4 main topics:

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

In addition there are numerous opportunities to use practical experiences to link theory to reality, and equip you with the essential practical skills you need.

Year two helps you build on that firm foundation and you will study

- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

At A-level you will be assessed by 3 written papers, each of 2 hours.

Practical assessments have been divided into those that can be assessed in written exams and those that can only be directly assessed whilst students are carrying out experiments. A-level grades will be based only on marks from written exams. A separate endorsement of practical skills will be taken alongside the A-level. This will be assessed by teachers and will be based on direct observation of your competency in a range of skills that are not assessable in written exams.