

A level

# Biology

Biology is an exciting and rapidly developing subject with a central place in the future of our society. Every week Biology is in the news with developments in our understanding of genetics, evolution and disease. It is the study of all organic life! The course ranges from the miracles of birth and the processes by which our genes are expressed during the very beginning of life; **through to how we came into being at all!**

## Entry requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science or Level 6 in GCSE
- Biology and GCSE Chemistry
- Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 5 in GCSE English Language

## Course breakdown

In Year 12 you will study a range of topics including:

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

## How will the course be assessed?

Although you will not be entered for a formal examination at the end of Year 12, you can expect to undertake a number of interim assessments so that you can keep track of your progress and

your teacher can identify your strengths and those areas in which you might require further support and guidance. In addition to these ongoing assessments you will also have formal internal examinations where your performance will be used to consider suitability for progression into Year 13 and predicted grades for UCAS or other applications.

At the end of Year 13 you will be entered for the A level in Biology. This will assess the content and skills covered in both years of study.

- Exam: Paper 1 – 2 hours – 35% of A level
- Exam: Paper 2 – 2 hours – 35% of A level
- Exam: Paper 3 – 2 hours – 30% of A level

You will also be required to demonstrate competence in a set of practical techniques and procedures in order to achieve the Practical Endorsement required for further study of Biology at University. As part of the course, you will complete a wide range of practical activities to ensure that you have the best chance of success in meeting the requirements of the Practical Endorsement.

## Where can the course lead?

Biology opens so many doors for students. It allows entry to biomedical degrees, zoology, botany, marine biology, medicine, dentistry, pharmacology, veterinary science - the list is extensive! This core subject will be highly sought after and respected by universities and so will strengthen an admission to other subjects too. It would be a great spring board to allow you to pursue careers including but not exclusive to: medicine, higher education lecturer, microbiologist, nature conservation officer, pharmacologist, research scientist, secondary school teacher or soil scientist.

