

**Course Title**

Biology

**Exam Board**

OCR A

**Course Description:**

AS and A level courses are entirely separate qualifications. We do not offer AS Biology so choosing Biology as an option means two years of study with three examinations in June/July of year 13. If the subject is not continued from Year 12 to 13 no qualification will be awarded.

Six teaching modules thoroughly cover the main foundations of Biology for those wishing to pursue degree courses and careers in the field.

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in Biology – This includes successful completion of the practical endorsement. Practical skills are also assessed in the written examinations.

Module 2 – Foundations in Biology – including cellular structure and biological molecules.

Module 3 – Exchange and transport – in both plants and animals.

Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease – classification, the variety of life and a focus on disease and the immune system.

Module 5 – Communications, homeostasis and energy – excretion, respiration, photosynthesis, hormonal communication and the nervous system.

Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems – biotechnology, inheritance, populations and ecosystems.

**Assessment:**

Paper 1: Biological processes: 100 marks (2 hours 15 minutes). Modules: 1, 2, 3, 5

Paper 2: Biological diversity: 100 marks (2 hours 15 minutes). Modules: 1, 2, 4, 6

Paper 3: Unified biology: 70 marks (1 hour 30 minutes). Modules: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Practical endorsement: Achieved/not achieved

**Admission Criteria:**

At least grade 7 in GCSE Biology or Grades 77 in GCSE Combined Science. Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.

**Additional Information:**

The course offers pupils the opportunity to study a mix of traditional Biology alongside current advances in Gene Technology and Biotechnology. Students will be expected to work independently outside of lessons and use study periods to develop their understanding. The course is extremely content-heavy, meaning that a foundation of factual knowledge is essential to develop conceptual understanding. We take a practical approach to every topic, developing skills from GCSE, encouraging independent thought, analysis of data and the ability to think critically.

The department runs a number of trips during the course including: Royal institute of Science, Camber sands, and A-Level Live.