A Level Biology (AQA)

Head of Department: Dr O Richards

83% A*-C in 2026

A Level Biology is usually taken by:

• Students who wish to pursue a career in Science, Medicine or Dentistry, either after a course in higher education or after completing A Level studies. In this case it is usually studied with at least one other A Level Science subject.

• Students who enjoy Biology but do not wish to study Biology at a higher level. In this case it may be studied in conjunction with any other A Level subject.

The topic areas studied are:

Year 12
1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchanging substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Year 13
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms responding to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

You are required to complete twelve specified practical investigations for A Level Biology and your understanding of practical Biology will be assessed in the written examinations.

A Level Biology students attend a residential field study course in September of Year 13. Essential practical skills are experienced and developed and are essential for the assessment of these. You are supported throughout the course by a team of highly experienced subject specialists who provide one-to-one support, additional tutorials, subject clinics and revision sessions. All subject staff are also experienced AQA examiners.

Students are also provided with the opportunity to participate in a variety of extension activities including: museum visits, practical DNA workshops, zoo visits, Biology Olympiad and lecture events.

The course is completely assessed in three exam papers sat at the end of Year 13. There is no Non-Examined Assessment in the Biology course however you must also show competence across the twelve required practical assignments.

Further information is available on the school website or from Dr. Richards.