BIOLOGY

Examination Board: Edexcel, Biology A (Salters-Nuffield)

Why study Biology?

Biology is at the cutting edge of our modern world, with solutions in genetic engineering, climate control and epidemiology in the news on an almost daily basis. The big ideas of Biology today grip the imagination and could become the next great leap forward for humanity.

This challenging context led A Level Biology course is recognised by all higher education institutions, including the Russell Group universities, and links well to a wide range of other A Level subjects, including Maths, Chemistry and Psychology.

The programme of study is taught in well-equipped Biology laboratories, with a full suite of resources on our OneNote and the latest textbooks that accompany the course.

Where does it lead?

The possibilities for students with A Level Biology are vast. These can include, but are not limited to agriculture, biochemistry, biotechnology, brewing, dentistry, environmental science, food industry, forestry, genetics, horticulture, medicine, nursing, pharmaceuticals, physiotherapy and veterinary science.

Course Content

The course is divided into 8 key topics as listed below. The first 4 topics are studied in year 1 of the course, with the remaining 4 topics being studied in the second year. The course is context-led, which enables individuals to link and draw together relevant ideas between topics. Practical work remains a key focus of the course.

YEAR 1

1. Lifestyle, Health and Risk
2. Genes and Health
3. The Voice of the Genome
4. Biodiversity and Natural Resources

YEAR 2

5. On the Wild Side
6. Infection, Immunity & Forensics
7. Run for Your Life
8. Grey Matter

Course Assessment

The course is assessed through three examination papers at the end of Year 13, each of which attracts one third of the final mark.

Individuals will also receive a 'Pass/Fail' Practical Endorsement to accompany their grade at A level. The endorsement assesses the competency of individuals undertaking practical work over the entire course, through the completion of 18 core practical investigations.

For further information, please contact Mr Kelland