

Welcome to Year 12 Biology

Biology is the study of living organisms and the way they interact with their environment. During the course you will learn to ask functional questions about the adaptations you study, asking why they help organisms survive and reproduce. You will never watch a nature documentary in the same way again.

Assessment and Feedback

There are regular assessments in Biology that will help you track your progress, practice revision strategies and get feedback on your exam technique.

They will take place in lessons around the following dates:

w/c 8th October 2018

w/c 10th December 2018

w/c 4th February 2019

w/c 25th March 2019 (exam week)

Your initial progress will be discussed at a consultation event on 5th November.

Structured Independent Study (SIS)

One of the key skills that you will need to develop in Biology is the ability to interpret and write concise and accurate answers to exam questions that require an application of knowledge. This can only be developed by practice. We achieve this in Biology by students completing monthly question booklets, marking their work using mark schemes and then having a monthly review in lessons of the issues that the questions have brought up. You need to manage your time working through these independently aiming for completion by the end of each month's deadline.

Homework

A range of homework tasks will be set by your teacher or the Head of Department above and beyond the SIS work outlined above. They will include practical write ups, practice questions, note taking exercises, reading, and revision for the regular assessments. Completion of these tasks along with the SIS component is a characteristic of successful students of A level Biology.

Coursework: Required practicals

As part of the course you are assessed in your ability to complete Practical work. There are 6 required practicals in Year 12 and 6 required practicals in Year 13. These are assessed on a pass / fail basis and then practical based questions will be asked in the written exam. It is therefore essential to attend all required practical sessions to achieve your A level in Biology.

Exams

You will sit exams throughout the course to assess your progress, these will include formal mock exam weeks. At the end of the two year course you will sit 3 AQA examinations each lasting 2 hours.