

Biology

(AQA)

Course Leader: Mr Hancock

What's it all about?

AQA A-Level Biology is the study of living organisms and the processes that enable life. Throughout the course, students explore topics such as cell structure, genetics, biodiversity, human physiology, ecology, evolution, and how organisms interact with their environments. The subject develops scientific knowledge alongside practical laboratory skills, data analysis, and critical thinking. It provides an excellent foundation for further study and careers in areas such as medicine, veterinary science, environmental science, biotechnology, and biological research.

What are the entry requirements?

A minimum GCSE grade 6 in Biology (or 66 at Combined Science) is required because A-Level Biology builds on GCSE knowledge at a much greater depth and pace, requiring students to have a secure understanding of fundamental biological concepts and strong scientific skills.

What will I learn on this course?

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfer in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

How will I be assessed?

The course is linear which means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the two-year course. There are three 2 hour papers with equal weighting. The assessment currently consists of a combination of short answers, extended writing questions and an essay.

What do your current students say?

"A-level Biology has been one of the most interesting subjects I've studied. It has helped me understand how living organisms work, developed my practical and analytical skills, and given me the confidence to pursue a career in healthcare".

Is there anything else I need to know?

Throughout the course, students complete a range of required practical activities that develop essential laboratory and investigative skills. These practical experiences contribute to the Practical Endorsement, which is reported separately from the A-level grade and is highly valued by universities. Success in A-level Biology requires curiosity, resilience and a willingness to study independently, as students are expected to read beyond the classroom, interpret scientific data and apply their knowledge to unfamiliar contexts. Biology is an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers, including Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Biomedical Science, Genetics, Ecology, Psychology and many other life science disciplines.

Who can I contact for further information?

Mr Hancock at rhancock@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk