

# A-Level Biology

EXAM BOARD: AQA

## What does the course cover?

Biology is the scientific study of life: it encompasses the investigation of living organisms and life processes from the molecular, through cells and individual organisms to populations and whole communities of animals and plants. Our A-Level Biology course builds on the topics students will have studied at GCSE and will cover the following:

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- How organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and the relationships between organisms
- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- How organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

Our course is designed to equip students with a solid understanding of key biological knowledge and will use examples from contemporary research to apply this in a range of contexts. The use of practical work is a key element of our course and students will be given regular opportunities to undertake their own biological investigations.

## What skills will the course help you develop?

As with the other sciences, Biology helps you to build up research, problem-solving, organisation and analytical skills. If you study Biology, you will likely find yourself working on group projects, which will help you build your teamwork and communication skills too.

## How is the course assessed?

A-Level Biology is assessed entirely by written examination. These will have a mix of shorter structured questions and more open extended response questions.

## What are the entry requirements?

Students wishing to study Biology will need a minimum of 5 GCSEs A\*-C, including two Science GCSEs at grade B or higher and grade 5 or higher in English and Maths.

## What do students who study this course go on to do?

Biology is a key subject for lots of STEM careers, particularly in healthcare, medicine and jobs involving plants or animals. The list is pretty long and includes: nursing, dentistry, forensic science, psychology, physiotherapy, botany, environmental science, zoology, geology, oceanography, pharmaceuticals, energy, teaching, science writing, genetics and research.

## Who is the staff contact for Biology?

Mr Ladd, Mr McAulay, Mr Vardy and Miss May all teach A-Level Biology and will be happy to discuss the course with you.