



## BIOLOGY

**Exam Board: AQA**

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from microorganisms to mammoths. Biology is never far from the headlines either. The human genome has been sequenced and we know the complete arrangement of the three thousand million bases that make up human DNA. In Kenya 350 people die every day from AIDS and in South East Asia the skies are dark with smoke as the last Bornean rainforests are burned to grow oil palms. Biologists are concerned with all these issues. They work in the fields of cell biology, medicine, food production and ecology. and the work they do is vital to us all. A-level biology is a demanding subject which requires the application of scientific knowledge and skills, competency across 12 practical tasks and maths skills (GCSE B and above on higher tier maths).

It opens a range of doors to degrees and careers in health, science, medicine, veterinary science and related careers. Students will learn about a combination of plant and animal biology over the two years using a range of activities with a strong emphasis of application.

The course is taught over two years with the final grade being made up from three two hour exams. Students will also need to complete 12 assessed practical tasks over the two years receiving a "pass" or "fail" alongside their final grade. The practicals are assessed with questions on practical skills in the terminal exams making up part of their final grade.

All students will also complete the AS Biology course, the content mirrors the first year of A-level, and sit two exams for the AS at the end of the first year. This is to give students a rigorous indication of their progress and provide hard evidence for their university applications at the beginning of year 12.

### Course details:

We teach the AQA Biology course (7402) and will be provided with a CGP text book for a £10 deposit that will form the basic expectations of independent work outside of class.

### Requirements:

To enrol on the course students need to obtain at least a B grade in Additional Science (higher paper) and a B or above in Maths (higher paper).

While not required it is strongly recommended students sit further additional science (triple science) in year 11 to help with the transition to A-level.