LEVEL 3 / A LEVEL

BIOLOGY

Biology is an incredibly exciting field to study right now, with groundbreaking research emerging that has a direct impact on our everyday lives. Genetic engineering, the human genome project, genetic testing and screening, biotechnology, genetically modified organisms, cloning, conservation and sustainable resources are some examples of important issues that everyone should know about in order to understand new developments and to make informed decisions.

Specific course entry requirements

College entry to include Double Award GCSE Science Higher Tier grades 6,6 (or above), or GCSE Biology grade 6 (or above), plus a minimum of either GCSE Chemistry grade 6 or GCSE Physics grade 6. You must also have achieved GCSE Mathematics grade 5 or above (please refer to the Entry Requirements section on the college website for further details). Students who have taken BTEC Level 2 Science do not meet the entry requirements for this course and should consider the BTEC Level 3 in Medical Science as an alternative.

How will I be assessed?

100% Examination. Practical skills are embedded within the course and are assessed as part of the practical endorsement of the A level as well as in the written examinations.

What will I study?

Over the two year A Level course you will study biological molecules, cells, organisms, exchange systems, genetics, variation, energy transfer, nervous system, evolution, ecosystems and gene technology.

A minimum of 12 required practicals will be taught and completed over the course. Additional practicals are also carried out by students to help them develop skills in following methods, controlling variables, obtaining results, and drawing conclusions.

Where will this course lead me?

Biology is an essential subject if you are interested in a career with a medical or bio-medical bias e.g. medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, nursing, pharmacy, physiotherapy, forensic science, or biochemistry. It is also an important and useful subject for anyone interested in careers in conservation, biotechnology, sports science and psychology. In addition, there are a large number of biology-related university degree courses, e.g., Marine Biology, Microbiology, and Zoology.