



COURSE SUMMARY

A Level Biology involves the study of how our bodies work in minute molecular detail and how diseases stop them working, exploring the fragility of life on Earth. The course develops an appreciation of the implications of new developments such as Genetic Engineering and the wider effects on biological systems including our own quality of life. Towards the end of Year 12 all students take part in the Biology field trip for five days at Aberystwyth University. The focus is to develop an interest and knowledge of our natural world and to appreciate how we can preserve it. This also allows students to apply inferential statistics to real life situations, developing their mathematical skills. An important element of the course is to train students to think logically, be critically analytical and work collaboratively. These are vital skills at university and in the work place and completing an A Level Biology course enables students to become effective members of any team.

WHY STUDY BIOLOGY?

"The subject enables students to understand the processes that occur in order to sustain living organisms. Of particular interest to those wishing to continue with human biology related degree courses has been learning about the human body and applying this knowledge to our everyday experiences and things usually taken for granted." *Heather*



WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Lessons combine practical and theory elements. The emphasis is on theory but both elements are fun and engaging. Most lessons involve reinforcing knowledge through the use of role-play or practical work. All students have a workbook designed by the science department for each topic to reduce the amount of note taking and to enable students to focus on applying their learning. This makes learning more interactive. There is also a book with a collection of past paper questions for every topic so that patterns in the type of question asked can be spotted." *Sasi*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Biology can help open doors to a range of careers and courses in human and veterinary medicine, as well as other medical related careers such as dentistry, optometry, physiotherapy and the pharmaceutical sciences. It can also lead to courses or employment in the areas of: forensic science, biomedical and biological sciences, and environmental health and food sciences.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Students choosing science in the Sixth Form are advised that the assessment style associated with A Level qualifications means that if you achieve less than a Grade 6 in GCSE Science or GCSE Biology you are generally unlikely to secure a pass in the A Level Biology exam. Students who are keen to study science at an advanced level and achieve a Grade 4 or 5 in GCSE, are advised to follow the BTEC in Applied Science course, where the assessment style is continuous rather than through final exams. The success rate on the course for students with this entry profile is very high.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Cells Alive](#)
- [Genome](#)
- [Molecular Biology WebBook](#)
- [New Scientist](#)
- [Nobel Prize](#)
- [Online Biology Book](#)
- Biological Service Review Magazine