

# OCR A-Level Biology

Raising Standards Leader – Mr Daniel Finn

## Department Information

The study of A level Biology with our experienced and well qualified Biology teachers begins with an introduction to the wide-ranging practical applications of Biology. Our well-resourced department allows all lessons to be conducted in laboratories using specialist, technical equipment for the practical endorsement component of the course. All students are issued with a course text on entry to the department and are expected to make regular use of the Pixl strategies provided to support and enhance their progress.

## Why study this course?

This course suits both students who have studied Combined Science at GCSE, or have studied the sciences as separate subjects. The study of any of the sciences shows a level of commitment and ability that few other subjects demand. You need to be confident in your practical abilities as well as being interested in how Science is used by society. Biologists generally study several science disciplines and even disciplines which may at first seem unrelated to Biology, for example statistics, or Computing. This is an important point which can enhance the employment prospects of Biologists over other science graduates.

## Aims of the course

As we go into the 21st century, concern grows for the well-being of our planet and ourselves. As a result, Biology is now a more challenging and rewarding subject to study than ever before. Biology deals with understanding and making the most of the working of nature and it allows for endless career opportunities.

## Course outline

The course is divided into six main modules that build on the concepts and skills developed at GCSE:

Development of practical skills in Biology	Foundations in Biology
Exchange and transport	Biodiversity, evolution, and disease.
Communication, homeostasis and energy	Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

## How am I assessed?

There are 3 exams at the end of the course:

- Biological processes - 100 marks 2hr 15min written exam assessing content of modules 1, 2, 3, 5 37% of full A-level
- Biological diversity - 100 marks 2hr 15min written exam assessing content of modules 1, 2, 4, 6 37% of full A-level
- Unified biology - 70 marks 1hr 30min written exam assessing content of modules 1-6 26% of full A-level
- Practical endorsement in biology (not examined)

## Where does this course lead?

The main areas of biological employment include the health services, environmental protection, biological industries, education and research.