St Benedict's Sixth Form

A Level Biology

Course Description

The Biology course builds on concepts and skills developed in GCSE Science. It presents biology as exciting, relevant and challenging. The course presents essential principles in contexts that students will find interesting. It will stimulate the enthusiasm of students from the start. The course emphasises the way in which scientists work and the contributions of science to modern society. The content involves a wide range of biological topics. In Year 12 you will study cells, biological molecules, disease, immunology, variation, genetics and evolution.

Skills Attained

In Biology you will focus on the following content and skills:

- Developing essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- Selecting, organising and communicating relevant information in a variety of forms
- Applying scientific knowledge and processes to unfamiliar situations including those related to current issues
- Assessing the validity, reliability and credibility of scientific information
- Demonstrating and describing ethical, safe and skilful practical techniques and processes, selecting appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods

Assessment

Biology will be assessed in the form of written exams. At the end of year 12 internal exams will be taken. This end of year assessment will include an essay. This gives you an understanding of your progress and is an advantage when applying to universities as you already have example grades. At the end of the course you will sit three exams, each 2 hours in length. Knowledge of practical techniques, and data analysis will be assessed alongside your breadth and depth of biological knowledge. Paper 3 includes an essay from the choice of two titles.

You will also complete 12 required practicals throughout the course leading to a practical endorsement.



Progression

For careers such as medicine, physiotherapy, midwifery, pharmacology, research scientist and science teaching, an 'A' level in Biology is vital.

You will be well prepared for any Biology related degree such as Biomedical Sciences, Microbiology, Genetics and Pharmacology. In addition to these, it can help prepare you for other degrees such as Sports Science, Geography, Environmental Chemistry and Psychology. Many Medical courses, including dentistry and veterinary medicine encourage the pursuit of Biology as an A-level. Interviews are often based around knowledge of biological systems, health and disease and genetics.

Biology is held in high esteem by many universities as sitting as one of the facilitated 'A' levels and they know that success in Biology is not an easy task. A good 'A' level in Biology proves you have good problem solving skills, analytical skills, numeracy, literacy and a logical brain.

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in 2 GCSE Sciences (including Biology) or 6-6 in Combined Science
Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
Grade 5 in GCSE English

Exam Board: AQA

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