

AS Level Curriculum

Minimum Entry Requirements

GCSE Science and additional Science at BB grade or above and English at grade B or above; a B grade in maths is also preferable.

The programme of study will encompass a broad range of biological themes and phenomena with an emphasis on development of practical skills, and higher cognitive skills such as analysis, evaluation and synthesis. The programme should be of interest both to those who wish to pursue further study in the human biological sciences, and to those who intend to develop a broader perspective of the natural world.

The syllabus comprises 3 modules studied in Year 12 culminating in the AS qualification. These deal with core Biology subjects such as Cells, Biological molecules, Disease and immunity, Transport systems, Taxonomy and Biodiversity. The first examination module is taken in January and the second in June. These examinations take the form of a structured assessment. There is also a coursework element worth 20%. After the examinations, all students who are continuing to the second year will participate in a fieldwork course. Students electing to continue into Year 13 to complete the full A Level will study a further three modules. The first module is taken in January and covers Photosynthesis, Respiration, Human physiology Ecology, Genetics and Evolution; the remaining two modules in March/June cover the Nervous system, Homeostasis, Gene technologies and the Coursework component. The June module also contains a synoptic and essay component, which tests the understanding of the connections between the different elements of the course, so students have an overall grasp of the subject. The Level of academic demand increases in the second year, with greater emphasis on the application of knowledge. A breakdown of the course structure is outlined below:

AS Course

The AS Units are Units 1 2 and 3 for Biology

Unit 1 will be taken as a written paper in January of the year they gain the

% of a level mark	AS %	A2 %
Unit 1	33.3%	16.7%
Unit 2	46.7%	23.3%
Unit 3	20%	10%

qualification and Unit 2 in June. The Internally assessed coursework element will be carried out during the Spring Term. The AS mark counts for 50% of the total A-level mark