



Biology

Head of Department: **M Randall** (m.randall@lsf.org)

Exam Board: AQA Biology (8461)

Biology literally means the science of living things and it is the science that relates most easily to pupils and to the environment in which they live. Biology is a rapidly changing and exciting science; just think about how often Biology features in the news with headline reports into cloning, genetic engineering, medical breakthroughs and the environment. It is perhaps no surprise that for so many years Biology has been a popular option choice with the majority of pupils in Year 9 selecting it.

The new GCSE course, introduced in 2016, aims to stimulate an interest in the study of living organisms and to promote an awareness of the significance of biological principles in personal, social, economic, environmental and technological contexts.

The course covers a wide range of topics including cells, disease, human biology, plant biology, evolution, ecology, DNA, genetics and inheritance to name a few. The teaching includes a wide variety of practical work, such as extracting DNA, investigating digestion and the kidney, enzyme experiments and studying animal and plant habitats, to enhance learning and help pupils develop their investigative and experimental skills.

Assessment is by two written examination papers taken in June of Year 11. Each paper is 1-hour and 45 minutes long and made up of a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answers and open response questions.

More information about the course is available from the AQA website:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461/specification-at-a-glance>

GCSE Biology, as well as being an enjoyable and interesting GCSE for pupils with no plan to take Sciences further, provides the best foundation for any pupil wishing to study the subject for A Levels and for those considering a career in medicine, dentistry or veterinary science. Most importantly perhaps, it will allow the pupil to obtain a deeper understanding of themselves and a better appreciation of the other life forms that interact with us on this wonderful planet!

Subject Enrichment

Weekly drop-in Homework Hub

Examination technique training sessions (Year 11)

Targeted support sessions (Year 11)

Beast Club, Bee Keeping Club, Pond Club, Forensic Science Club, Summer Dissection Club

National and regional individual and team competitions

Extensive program of visiting speakers: practising scientists from various Biology fields (Year 11)

