

# Biology B

Examination Board: OCR

## Staff Lead

S Lockett, BSc (Hons), MSc

## Why Study Biology B?

Quite simply, you love learning science and in particular have a connection with biology, a subject where you naturally excel. You will learn to apply your knowledge to solve practical problems and theory.

This Biology B course is a context-based approach; we introduce the big ideas of biology but in an applied setting. The course is demanding yet engaging and has a combination of academic challenge, contemporary context as well as a practical focus. You have to enjoy studying plants; when we cover photosynthesis, we do so in the context of food productions and the environmental management. Practical skills are a continuous part of the course, and you will be specifically examined on these. The development of your maths skills is an integral part of this A level and it is essential that you come to the course with strong mathematical knowledge.

There are 5 teaching modules. In Year 12 you will cover:

- practical skills
- cells, biochemistry, transport and gas exchange
- cell division, development and control

In Year 13, we cover;

- energy, reproduction and populations
- genetics, control and homeostasis

## Career Paths & Degree Courses

If you are considering which Biology course to choose, this one would be better suited to those who would like a career which involves people e.g. nursing, medicine, midwifery, radiotherapy, physiotherapy, vet or a forensic scientist. It is not the course for you if you wish to go into an environmental career, to be a botanist, geneticist, psychologist, or ecologist.

## Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5.

Minimum grade 6 from any GCSE Science. Grade 6 in GCSE Maths & English.

| Biology B H422 |                                | Covering    | Content In Exam Paper         |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Paper 1        | Fundamentals of Biology        | Modules 1-5 | 2 hours 15 minutes, 41% of A2 |
| Paper 2        | Scientific literacy in Biology | Modules 1-5 | 2 hours 15 minutes, 37% of A2 |
| Paper 3        | Practical skills in Biology    | Modules 1-5 | 1 hour 30 minutes, 22% of A2  |