

# A LEVEL BIOLOGY

## Introduction

Biology is the study of living things, how they function and interact with each other and their surroundings. Every day experience gives us an insight and a general knowledge of biological issues. We all have an understanding of how our bodies work and of the animals and plants in the countryside around us. The A level Biology course gives us the detail required to understand these ideas in a more scientific and organised way.

The course is organised into AS and A Level. The AS course is covered in Year 12. This consists of three units:

1. Cells, Exchange and Transport
2. Molecules, Biodiversity, Food and Health
3. Practical Skills in Biology 1

The first two units are assessed by written exams, whilst the third unit involves assessment of practical and investigative skills in three tasks.

If you have enjoyed the AS Level and have achieved a pass grade, you can choose to progress to the A Level course in Year 13. This builds on the Year 12 course and consists of a further three units:

4. Communication, Homeostasis and Energy
5. Control, Genomes and the Environment
6. Practical Skills in Biology 2

Units 4 and 5 are assessed by written exams, whilst unit 6 involves the assessment of three practical tasks. The course looks at the wide range of living things that exist, how they obtain

their energy and how their cells perform the chemical reactions needed to keep the organism alive. The inheritance of genes from one generation to the next and biotechnological advances in genetic engineering are studied in detail and provide interesting facts as well as extremely relevant moral issues for our times.

Please note that this information is based on the new specification we are considering following in September 2008 although this is still under discussion and a final decision has not yet been made.

## Opportunities

If you are thinking of any careers in Medicine, Nursing, Ophthalmics, Physiotherapy, Veterinary Science, Environmental Studies or General Biological Research then Biology will provide a useful start to that career if not proving to be an essential requirement for course entry.

## Entry Requirements

In order to study Biology at A Level, it is essential to have a good understanding of basic Science. It is therefore necessary to have attained at least Grade C, but preferably a B or above in GCSE Science. Grade C or above in GCSE Maths and English is also desirable.

**For further information see Mr G Atkinson**