Biology

Why you should follow this course

The aims of the course are to:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of Biology and how they relate to each other
- develop your interest in and enthusiasm for Biology, including developing an interest in further study and careers in Biology
- appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society
- develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of '*How Science Works*'

What teaching and learning methods will be used?

A variety of teaching and learning methods will be employed.

One double lesson per week will be spent carrying out practical work, to reinforce students' understanding and to develop their experimental skills.

How will the course be assessed?

All components are examined in June.

Overall, 15% of the marks for an A-Level Biology qualification will require the assessment of practical skills which will be assessed across the different examination papers.

Students will also be assessed in their competency during practical lessons which will allow them to obtain a separate practical endorsement. If students meet the required standards then they will receive a pass grade alongside their overall grade.

What can you do when you have your qualification?

Advanced Level Biology provides access to many related careers and courses, including Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Microbiology, Biochemistry, Genetics, Environmental Sciences and Medicine, as well as developing transferable skills for many other careers.

For further information or advice please contact Mr Sproat or Mr Hayward in the Science Department, or speak to students presently following the A Level course. science@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A Level

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Units delivered:

1) Biological molecules
2) Cells
3) Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4) Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.
5) Energy transfers in and between organisms
6) Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7) Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8) The control of gene expression

Paper 1 (35%) – Any content from AS topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills. (2 hour paper)

Paper 2 (35%) – Any content from topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills. (2 hour paper)

Paper 3 (30%) – Any content from topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills. (2 hour paper)