

**BIOLOGY (Option)**

Examination Board: Edexcel

Assessment Pattern: All students who study Biology at GCSE will obtain a final grade based upon two examinations taken at the end of the second year. Some questions in these exams will test knowledge of practical skills.

The grade awarded will be A* - G

Course Description: There are five areas of content:

- 1. Nature and variety of living organisms:** which includes characteristics and classification of living organisms.
- 2. Structures and functions of living organisms:** which includes levels of organization, cell structure, biological molecules, movement of substances in and out of cells, nutrition respiration, gas exchange, excretion and coordination and response, in both plants and animals.
- 3. Reproduction and inheritance:** asexual and sexual reproduction in plants and animals and inheritance.
- 4. Ecology and the environment:** the organism in the environment, feeding relationships, cycles within ecosystems and human influences on the environment.
- 5. Use of biological resources:** food production, selective breeding, genetic engineering, cloning.

Much of the work carried out involves practical investigation and pupils are encouraged to develop a safe, confident and disciplined attitude towards their work in this area. These classes teach the students to plan experimental procedures, describe experimental techniques, take measurements, analyse the evidence and draw conclusions in order to evaluate the evidence.

This course offers links with numerous other subjects and vocational areas particularly Physical Education and Sport Science, Food Science and Catering, Child Development and Child Care, Psychology, Health & Medicine and Forensics.

The course is a vital foundation for the 'A' Level Syllabus. IGCSE Biology is also a requirement for many university courses in Sports Science and Physiotherapy.

NB If 'A' Level Biology or Physical Education/Sports Science is likely to be taken at a later date, candidates should also select GCSE Chemistry in Year 10.

For further information see: Miss G Cavallaro or Mr A Headford