

Carshalton Boys A level

Biology

The aims of Biology A Level are to enable students to develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, Biology including developing an interest in further study and careers in the subject.

Students will study not only theoretical aspects of Biology but also current and innovative issues such as Gene Therapy, Cloning and Forensic technologies. Students will also hone their practical skills by planning experiments, collecting data, analysing experimental results and justifying conclusions. Through the course you will also learn how scientific models are developed, the applications and implications of science in everyday life, the benefit and risks that science brings and the ways in which society uses science to make decisions.

Is Biology the right subject for you?

A Level Biology is suitable for you if you:

- have an interest in and enjoy Biology and want to find out about how things work in the natural world by the application of creative, logical thinking
- want to use Biology to progress into Higher Education or support other qualifications or enter Biology-based employment
- are taking A Levels in the other sciences and/or mathematics or other relevant courses such as Physical Education and want to take another course that will support those studies.

ASSESSMENT and CONTENT

At AS Level there are two taught units, each accounting for 50% of the AS grade, these are examined at the end of the year in two exams. Both papers are 80 marks and will assess practical skills with 10% of the paper also assessing KS5 mathematics skills.

Paper 1: Lifestyle, transport, genes and health (1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 2: Development, plants and the environment (1 hour 30 minutes)

At A Level, there are three units, each accounting for 33% of the A level grade. They are assessed in three 100 mark examinations that all assess practical skills, advanced maths skills and the topics stated below:

Paper 1: The natural environment and species survival (2 hours)

Paper 2: Energy, exercise and co-ordination (2 hours)

Paper 3: General and Practical Application in Biology (2 hours)

The course requirements...

Grade B/7 or higher in both Core and Additional GCSE Science or separate Biology B and Grade B/6 or higher in GCSE English and Mathematics. If more science subjects are being taken then you will require a level 7 or high in Maths and English at GCSE.