

Biology

Subject Information Sheet

Course Title:	Biology
Subject:	Biology
Qualification:	GCE A level
Exam Board:	OCR Specification A
General Course Description	Studying biology will enable you to find out why your siblings look like you do, find out how medicines work, what DNA is, whether clones really exist, and who Darwin was, for example. We hope that the course will promote curiosity, develop your understand of complex biological ideas and inspire the new generation of biologists.
Course Content and Teaching Units	<p>Modules 1-4 will be taught in Y12. Modules 5-6 are taught in Y13, however all modules are revisited as exams are linear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 1- Development of practical skills in biology • Module 2 – Foundations in biology • Module 3- Exchange and transport • Module 4- Biodiversity, evolution and disease • Module 5- Communication, homeostasis and energy • Module 6- Genetics, evolution and ecosystems
Entry Requirements	<p>Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Triple Biology and a grade 5 in GCSE Maths and English.</p> <p>Combined science students require a grade 7-7 to be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>

Assessment	<u>At the end of Y12 you will sit the following mock examinations:</u>		
	<u>Paper</u>	<u>Structure</u>	<u>What is it worth?</u>
	Breadth in biology	Covers content in modules 1-4 Multiple choice and short answer questions	50% of mock
	Depth in biology	Covers content in modules 1-4 Extended response questions	50% of mock
	<u>At the end of Y13 you will sit the following external examinations:</u>		
	<u>Paper</u>	<u>Structure</u>	<u>What is it worth?</u>
	Paper 1- Biological principles	This paper will assess content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5	37% of your overall A level qualification
	Paper 2- Biological diversity	This paper will assess content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6	37% of your overall A level qualification
	Paper 3- Unified biology	This paper will assess content from all modules (1-6)	26% of your overall A level qualification
	<u>Practical skills will be assessed throughout both years. Evidence for this will be recorded in a work book.</u>		
Financial Information	<p>Approximately £100 will be required in the summer term of Y12 to cover the cost of the biology field course to Scarborough, however in the event of genuine financial hardship other arrangements can be made.</p> <p>Revision guides are provided, however we ask for a £5 deposit per book which is refunded when returned.</p> <p>Revision workbooks will also be provided free of charge to support learning during the additional independent study sessions.</p>		
Progression Opportunities	<p>A Level Biology is clearly a specialised science qualification, thus providing an excellent foundation for further study of Medicine, Veterinary Science, Biotechnology, Physiotherapy, Microbiology, Sports Science, and all aspects of Biology.</p>		

<p>Further Information about our courses including results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The biology department at KES achieve excellent results – over the last five years our mean percentage of A*-B grades is 58%. We are in the top 25% of in the country (including fee paying schools) for 4-year ALPS average (prior to summer 2020.)• Scarborough field trip – Our annual, very successful Ecology field course that provides students with valuable life experience, as well as practical skills required for their practical endorsement qualification.• We run the Biology Olympiad (and Intermediate Biology Olympiad) every year for students who would like to enter and compete nationally. This looks great on UCAS applications.• Biology support is available every day. Please email your biology teacher or Mrs Birds to arrange a suitable time for 1-to-1 support.
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