A Level Biology

at The Warriner School

Biology A Level
Exam Board: OCR Biology A
Entry Requirements: GCSE Combined Science Grade 6, GCSE Biology Grade 6 and a GCSE Maths Grade 6

Course Content and Methods of Assessment:
A level Biology is split into 6 modules:
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

Assessment:
The A Level is linear and assessed in three exams at the end of the second year.

Biological processes—100 marks—2 hour 15 minutes written paper	**37%** of total A level
Biological diversity—100 marks—2 hour 15 minutes written paper	**37%** of total A level
Unified biology—70 marks—1 hour 30 minutes written paper	**26%** of total A level

There is also a practical component which assesses practical skills. This is marked and recorded by teachers throughout the course.

Course structure
In the first year students will learn about the basic building blocks of biology including cell structure and biological molecules. They will then move on to apply these principles to the respiratory system and circulatory system in animals and the plant transport system. Students will also learn about biodiversity and will complete some fieldwork investigations. They will learn about the immune system and the diseases tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS.

In the second year students will be building on the knowledge that they already have and will be applying biological principles to new concepts and linking ideas together. The topics covered include the nervous system, liver, kidneys and respiration in animals and photosynthesis in plants. Students will be solving genetics problems and learning about new gene technologies.

Higher Education and Employment Opportunities:
A level Biology is recognised by higher education providers and valued by employers. Many students choose Biology alongside other science subjects, Geography or PE whereas others find it works well as a standalone science subject with English and the Humanities. The skill set students will develop is vast and highly regarded. Many students who study Biology at A Level go on to study at university in a wide variety of courses. It is possible to specialise in one area of Biology at university such as Ecology, Zoology, Genetics, Human or Medical Biology. It is essential for those wanting to study Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science.

Learning Styles and Enrichment Opportunities:
Teaching will comprise some theory work as well as practical work in the lab, fieldwork and class discussions. Students are expected to spend time outside of lessons broadening their biological knowledge by reading around the subject.