

BIOLOGY

A Level

This subject will suit you if:

- You are interested in how living things work
- You have an inquiring mind and want to find out more about current developments and research in Biology
- Enjoy practical based lessons to develop your understanding
- You enjoy inquiry, problem solving and evaluating Scientific Ideas
- You have an interest in the living world around you.



What You'll Study

AS and first year of A-level:

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment.

Second year of A-level:

- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression.

Biology, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- using microscopes to see cell division
- dissection of animal or plant systems
- aseptic technique to study microbial growth
- investigating activity within cells
- investigating animal behaviors
- investigating distributions of species in the environment.

Lessons cover practical skills, research projects, class discussions, investigation work, and examination technique practice.



Provisional Entry Requirements

At least a B in the examined components of GCSE Additional Science or Triple Science as well as a B grade in GCSE Maths.

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Why I chose Biology ~Syed

"Biology at A-level is continually challenging and extremely enjoyable. It requires hard work and commitment, however it is very rewarding. There are good, helpful and supportive staff at Parrs Wood. Each lesson offers challenging discussions and the teachers use great enthusiasm to illustrate points. It has allowed me to further develop a personal interest in the study of living organisms. The rat anatomy project is brilliant. Having an A-level in Biology will put you in great stead for a huge range of careers as it is a useful qualification to have, especially if you're applying for health-related courses."



Enrichment

All Year 12 and Year 13 students have opportunities to see a wide range of speakers throughout AS and A2 Biology at Manchester University covering a range of topics for the brain and nervous system to drugs in medicine. All students are invited to apply to take part in the British Biology Olympiad and for a place with the Nuffield Science Bursary. Both of these opportunities give students the opportunity to be involved in high level Science that will challenge and inspire are most able students. There are weekly revision and intervention sessions offered to all students for help with classwork, homework or extension work. Ecology work is carried out in the A2 year using the facilities located around the school grounds to complete Ecology projects and analysis of the local environment. This work covers the Ecology, populations and statistics elements of the specification. There will also be an opportunity to investigate the anatomy of a rat during our rat dissection project at the end of Year 12. You'll be trained to skillfully conduct the dissection with the additional opportunity of demonstrating this to our GCSE students.



Ideas for Progression

A level Biology is taken by a wide range of students. The top seven degree courses taken by students who have an A-level in Biology are:

- Biology
- Psychology
- Sport and exercise science
- Medicine
- Anatomy
- Physiology and Pathology Pharmacology
- Toxicology and Pharmacy Chemistry.

Possible Career Options

Studying A-level Biology at university gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including:

- Doctor
- Clinical molecular geneticist
- Nature conservation officer
- Pharmacologist
- Research scientist
- Vet
- Secondary school teacher
- Marine biologist
- Dentist.

To find out more you can visit our website: www.parrswood.manchester.sch.uk/sixthform
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