

# A Level Biology



*"Biology is truly a land of unlimited possibilities."*

**Sigmund Freud**

*"Biology has progressed tremendously ... the black boxes Darwin accepted are now being opened, and our view of the world is again being shaken."*

**Michael Behe**

At no time in our history has our understanding of Biology been growing at such a fast rate. This knowledge is already leading to new advances in personalised medicine, gene editing and synthetic life, which will impact all of us over the next 50 years. But we also face new challenges in relation to environmental change and biodiversity. The importance of Biology and its applications, together with the skills it fosters, is the reason why it is one of the UK's most popular and highly regarded A-Levels.

## Want to know more?

Then this is the course for you! A course which will develop your understanding from the smallest biological molecule to the largest organ systems of your body, a course which will develop your investigative skills to the level required by employers and universities, and a course which will challenge you to understand the most cutting-edge developments in Biology.

## What you will learn:

In Year 12, you will learn about the smallest biological molecules, cells, immunity, how our organs exchange materials with the environment, and the genetic diversity of life.

Year 12 students also undertake a 3-day field trip to Cranedale Field Studies Centre, to develop environmental sampling skills.

In Year 13, this is extended to look at energy transfer in organisms, how our body co-ordinates things, gene inheritance and expression, and how humans are now utilising our knowledge of DNA for future medical and industrial applications.

## How you will be assessed:

The course is assessed through three written papers at the end of Year 13, which test your knowledge, application, practical skills and evaluation. Papers also include 10% Maths questions.

Paper 1 – 35 % of A Level - Year 1 content

Paper 2 – 35 % of A Level – Year 2 content

Paper 3 – 30% of A-level – All content, with emphasis on application and an essay.

## What you need to get started:

Students require GCSE grade 6 and above in Science, along with grade 5 in Maths.

## Further details:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402>

## Biology at Temple Moor:

Temple Moor's Biology results have consistently exceeded the national average for student progress and grade quality. In 2019, 50% of candidates achieved grade B or above, well above the national average. In 2017, we were ranked as the 16<sup>th</sup> best centre in England for student progress in A-Level Biology.

Our teachers have vast experience of teaching and examining at A-Level, allowing us to effectively support students at all stages of the two years to foster key skills as well as develop a deep, comprehensive understanding.

## What our students say:

*"The **best** subject I have picked. Even though it is challenging, it is so interesting to learn about. I've loved it as relates to everything in your life".*

**Kira, former student (2020 cohort)**

*"A-Level Biology provides a much deeper level of understanding of life than GCSE, which makes it really interesting to learn about. The practical element is also really enjoyable. The support from both teachers has been fantastic and you really feel like you can ask for help at any time".*

**Eeba, Year 13 student.**

## What next?

A-Level Biology is a highly regarded qualification. Skills such as problem solving, independent practical work and being analytical are heavily valued, opening doors to universities as well as employment in the field of Biology and in other sectors.

Biology specific courses and careers include: Medicine; Veterinary Science, Midwifery; Sports Science; Genetics; Biochemistry; Microbiology and immunology; Neuroscience; Marine Biology; Clinical Science.



Y12 field trip to Cranedale

...pursuing excellence