BIOLOGY **Mrs S Smith**

Academic Requirements

If you are considering studying Biology beyond GCSE you should be able to answer YES to the following questions:-

1. Will you obtain an A*, A or B grade for GCSE Biology or in Core and Additional Science (Double Award Science)?
2. Will you obtain at least a B grade for GCSE Chemistry (if studying separate Sciences) and Mathematics?
3. Are your practical skills good and can you look critically at experimental procedures and results?
4. Do you enjoy reading books and articles to gather information?
5. Can you think laterally to apply your knowledge to new situations?

Course Specification: OCR Biology (AS level H021, A level H421)

AS level (Lower Sixth) consists of 2 Theoretical Units of Study + 1 Practical Unit

1. Unit F211 – Cells, Exchange and Transport
2. Unit F212 – Molecules, Biodiversity, Food and Health
3. Unit F213 – Practical Skills in Biology (1)

A level (Upper Sixth) consists of 2 Theoretical Units of Study + 1 Practical Unit.

The course builds on the AS work and it is important to have a good knowledge of all AS units as questions set at A level will contain a synoptic element.

1. Unit F214 – Communication, Homeostasis and Energy
2. Unit F215 – Control, Genomes and Environment
3. Unit F216 – Practical Skills in Biology (2)

Practical Skills at AS level and A level

Practical tasks are set by OCR. Practical procedures are conducted under controlled conditions within the laboratory and then written test papers are completed within lesson time. Internal assessment takes place and the test papers are moderated by OCR. There are three assessment areas:- (i) Qualitative Task (ii) Quantitative Task and (iii) Evaluative Task

There is a compulsory two day field trip after the AS examinations for those continuing to A level, for which there is a charge.

Why Biology?

You should be able to answer YES to at least one of these questions:-

1. Do you have a keen interest in the subject and wish to study it at a higher level perhaps with a view to a career involving some aspect of Biological Science?
2. Do you wish to pursue a career in Medicine or Veterinary Science?
3. Are you looking for an 'A' level subject to go with a combination including Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Geography, Psychology or Physical Education?
4. Are you intending to study Arts subjects but would like to study a Science, perhaps to AS, in order to broaden your personal programme of study?

A Student's Perspective

'Biology at A level is great because you can begin to answer some of those questions that were forming at GCSE about how and why some biological processes work. The new knowledge you gain can be applied to wider scientific concepts and research which is going on in the science world today, and this contributes in making it a fascinating and really rewarding subject, especially if you have a curious mind!.'