CLAIRES COURT
SIXTH FORM

Curriculum Statement

Year 12 - Biology
2025 – 2026

Your place to *aim high*

Biology

All students study the OCR Biology A GCE Specification, which meets the QCA requirements. There are four lessons per week on the timetable, which are taught by two Biology specialist subject teachers. The full A level is made up of six modules plus a practical endorsement. There are four modules of work to be studied during the first year, to be continued into Year 13 for the full A level. The specification allows for the award of grades A to E.

In Year 12 students study:

- Module one: Development of practical skills in Biology
- Module two: Foundations in Biology
- Module three: Exchange and transport
- Module four: Biodiversity, evolution and disease.

For the full A level qualification all examinations will be taken at the end of Year 13.

Autumn term

Modules one and two

- Practical skills including planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation
- Cell structure
- Biological membranes
- Cell division, cell diversity and cellular organisation
- Biological membranes
- Nucleotides and nucleic acids
- Enzymes

Lent term

Modules one, three and four

- Practical skills including implementing, analysis and evaluation will feature in all of the modules, the results of which are recorded in students lab books
- Exchange surfaces
- Transport in animals
- Communicable diseases, disease prevention and the immune system
- Biodiversity

Summer term

Modules one, three and four

- Transport in plants
- Classification and evolution

- Revision of all units for the end of year examinations and completion of appropriate practical skills.

Throughout the year the progress of the students will be monitored carefully, through homework set, end of topic tests and internal exams.

Practical and Fieldwork

As part of the A Level course they will be carrying out investigations for their practical endorsement. This is required for students to show competencies in the specified skills and techniques to pass the practical skills assessment of the A level course. The practical endorsement also prepares students well for implementing practical skills in an exam.

To equip the students with these skills and techniques needed during fieldwork, students will visit a field studies centre. Here they will learn a variety of sampling techniques, experience a wide range of data collection methods and learn how to analyse and evaluate data. There will be an additional cost for this visit.

MASTERY

Students will continue to consolidate previous knowledge from GCSE and throughout the year via regular integration of past paper questions. The study of life itself, A level Biology explores the fundamental theories and principles involved in living systems, in all their intricate beauty. Students will also gain an understanding of how we evolved, finding out how animals and plants carry out exchange and transport processes in a seemingly effortless fashion and how society makes decisions about disease prevention and maintaining biodiversity. A combination of lab work, dissections, field work and writing up experiments will help develop skills and competence in scientific methods and scientific communication. Students will get plenty of practice in mathematical and problem-solving techniques, too. Regular formative assessments are embedded to identify areas for support in learning.

For further information please contact:

Miss Sadia Mirza - sam@clairescourt.net