



CLAIRE'S COURT
SIXTH FORM

Curriculum Statement

Year 13 - 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 of Biology per week on the timetable, which are taught by two Biology specialist teachers. The A level is made up of six modules plus a practical endorsement. The first four modules are covered in Year 12. The specification allows for the award of grades A* to E.

Areas of study

In Year 13 students study:

- Module five - communication, homeostasis and energy
- Module six - genetics, evolution and ecosystems.

Autumn term

Module five

- Communication and homeostasis
- Excretion as an example of homeostatic control
- Neuronal communication
- Hormonal communication
- Plant and animal responses
- Photosynthesis
- Respiration.

Lent term

Module six

- Cellular control
- Patterns of inheritance
- Manipulating genomes
- Cloning and biotechnology
- Ecosystems
- Populations and sustainability
- Practical skills - including implementing, analysis and evaluation will continue to feature in all of the modules, the results of which are recorded in students Lab books.

Summer term

Revision of all units including those covered in Year 12.

MASTERY

Students will continue to consolidate previous knowledge from Year 12 and throughout the year via regular integration of past paper questions. An additional layer of deeper understanding is nurtured through studying the fundamental biological processes of excretion and hormonal control, energy and coordination. Recent developments in genes, genetic engineering and animal conservation programmes show some of the ways in which the scientific community contributes to the success of the economy and society. 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.

Assessment

For the A level qualification there are three exams taken in June:

- Biological Processes - multiple choice, short answer and extended responses on modules one, two, three and five (worth 37%)
- Biological Diversity - multiple choice, short answer and extended responses on modules one, two, four and six (worth 37%)
- Unified Biology– short answer and extended responses from content across all modules (worth 26%)
- Practical endorsement in Biology - a practical endorsement granted by a visiting moderator and supported by students' lab books.

For further information please contact:

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