

BIOLOGY

A Level

Why Study this course?

- 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.



Career Progression

- The top 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.
- Studying A-level Biology at university gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including: Clinical molecular geneticist, Nature Conservation Officer, Pharmacologist, Research scientist, Vet, Secondary school teacher, Marine biologist, Dentistry, Medicine, Biochemistry.

What You'll Study

Year 1:

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

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

Year 2:

- 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 and plant systems
- Aseptic technique to study microbial growth
- Investigating activity within cells
- Investigating animal behaviours
- Investigating distributions of species in the environment.

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during required practicals will be assessed. There are three exams at the end of the two years for A-level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A-level Biology are based on what you learned in your practicals.

Why study Biology at PWSFC?

Why I chose Biology

"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." - Syed



Why Parrs Wood?

- You will have opportunities to see a wide range of speakers throughout the Biology course at Manchester University covering topics from the brain and nervous system to drugs in medicine.
- You are also 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 you the opportunity to be involved in high level Science that will challenge and inspire our most able students.
- Ecology work is carried out in the second 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 skilfully conduct the dissection with the additional opportunity of demonstrating this to our GCSE students.

If you like this subject, you may also like:

Chemistry, Physics. BTEC Applied Sciences, Maths, Physical Education

PARRS WOOD SIXTH FORM

Wilmslow Road, East Didsbury

Manchester, M20 5PG

t: 0161 446 8648

e: m.tracy@parrswood.manchester.sch.uk

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