

Biology



Biology Staff

A. Wardell

Z. Shaikh

C. Lowe

A. Bijnens

Our students say...

"Biology has left me very well prepared for my course. Pharmacy is primarily based on Chemistry but it does involve elements of Biology for instance; lipid solubility in cell membranes; diffusion processes and factors affecting diffusion for example. The new vocabulary required for A-level biology was daunting but playing educational games helped my class memorise these key words and linking them together."

Jimmy Nguyen Pharmacy, University of Manchester

"Highly supportive teaching staff that push you to your limits....and do their best to help you succeed"

"In biology everything is taught carefully and the teachers ensure that you understand but still provide plenty of opportunity for independent work."

"Tough transition made significantly easier by good quality teaching and friendly teachers"

Current Year 12 Students

Our results 2017...

44% A*-B

68% A*-C

100% A*-E

Entry Requirements

Grades 6-6 and above in Core and Additional Science. Grade 6 and above in Triple Science including Biology. Grade 6 in English Language and Maths.

Course Content — AS Level (modules 1-3 only) and A level Qualifications (modules 1-6).

Module 1- Development of practical skills in biology

Module 2-Foundations of biology

Module 3-Exchange and Transport

Module 4-Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease

Module 5- Communication, Homeostasis and Energy

Module 6- Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems

This year is the second year of the A level changes. The A level and the AS level qualifications are now separate entities and exams are terminal, for the A level qualification, students will sit all of their exams at the end of 2 years. The practical endorsement is now a separate qualification and no longer contributes towards the A level grade. There is no practical endorsement for the AS course.

Method of assessment

- A Level Paper 1 Modules 1,2,3,5 (2.25 Hours)
 - 15 marks Multiple choice
 - 85 marks longer response
- A Level Paper 2- Modules 1,2,4,6 (2.25 hr exam)
 - 15 marks Multiple choice
 - 85 marks longer response
- A Level Paper 3- Modules 1-6 (1.5Hr Exam)
 - 70 Marks long response
- PRACTICAL ENDORSEMENT SEPARATE QUALIFICATION (students are expected to complete a set of prescribed practical activities over the two years and are awarded a pass or fail upon completion)

Key Skills

If you enjoy learning about the natural world, how organisms interact and depend on each other in the environment, how these organisms evolved then A level biology is for you. If you enjoy learning about the human body, how the body works at a molecular and cellular level and how the information to build a human body is passed from generation to generation then A level biology is for you.

A level biology is a multi-disciplinary subject which will provide opportunities and preparation for a wide range of careers and higher education courses primarily in related fields for example medicine, biomedical sciences and the life sciences but also in a wide range of other disciplines. It requires the development of a wide range of skills, successful students must demonstrate a wide variety of skills to a high standard; literacy, numeracy, problem solving, organisation, written and oral communication as well as the ability to learn, assimilate and understand difficult scientific concepts. At Thomas Tallis we encourage the development of all these. Whenever possible students are given hands on opportunities to develop their understanding of the subject through practical work and each year students have the opportunity to take part in off-site trips for example to Field Studies Council Centres to study ecology with subject experts.