



# Biology

Biology Staff:  
Mr A. Wardell BSc (Hons)  
Ms C. Lowe BSc (Hons)  
Ms Z. Shaikh BSc (Hons)  
Mr J. Lloyd BSc (Hons)

## Our students say...

*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. "*

*"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"*

## Why should I choose biology?

Have you ever wondered why your sister looks like you? How medicines work? What DNA is? Do clones exist? Who Darwin was? An interesting and challenging learning experience awaits, linking key biological ideas and understanding how they relate to each other. You will develop transferable skills including: investigative, problem solving, research, decision making, mathematical and analytical skills. A level biology opens up a range of options for further study and careers in the biological sciences and beyond.

## Our recent results...

2019:	46% A*-B	65% A*-C	100% A*-E
2020:	52% A*-B	65% A*-C	100% A*-E
2021:	48% A*-B	85% A*-C	100% A*-E
2022	57% A*-B	70% A*-C	96% A*-E

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grades 6 in biology and one other science or grade 6-6 in Science.  
Grade 6 in Mathematics and English.

## What's different about biology at Thomas Tallis?

The Thomas Tallis biology department is made up of a team of enthusiastic teachers who love biology and its related disciplines with backgrounds in molecular biology, biochemistry and zoology. We run extra-curricular trips to improve pupil knowledge and keep pupils motivated and interested in the subject. In the past, we have taken pupils to Kew Gardens and Field Studies Council sites to experience ecology investigations with local experts, experience days at the Natural History Museum and have also taken year 13 students on residential revision trips to prepare for final A level exams. In addition, we follow a rigorous curriculum that enables students to understand the subject at a deeper level, to think independently and prepare for university. We run an after school biology clinic to support students and enter the Biology Olympiad run by the Institute of Biology. We also offer support for university entrance exams. We keep aspirations for our pupils high.

## What will I learn?

At Thomas Tallis, we follow the OCR A curriculum. All examinations are taken at the end of year 2 and there is a separate practical element which students need to pass. Pupils learn the following modules:

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

## How am I assessed?

- A Level Paper 1: Modules 1,2,3,5 (2.25 Hours)
  - 15 marks Multiple choice
  - 85 marks long response
- A Level Paper 2: Modules 1,2,4,6 (2.25 hr exam)
  - 15 marks Multiple choice
  - 85 marks long response
- A Level Paper 3: Modules 1-6 (1.5Hr Exam)
  - 70 Marks long response
- Separate practical element

