

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

TOP TIPS

for becoming a successful Post 16 BIOLOGY student



- 1 Use the Cornell system of note taking to help organise your notes and ensure you make regular summaries of the key ideas being taught. They can also be used to highlight links with other biology units and subjects taught.
- 2 Prepare ahead of your lessons by completing your learning grids in advance with the help of text books and Youtube videos and then review your answers following the lessons.
- 3 Use flash cards, mind maps, bullet point summaries at the end of each topic to help you learn the key facts by heart.
- 4 Don't ignore module 1: regularly review the key maths and scientific skills that students tend to take for granted and make sure you have learned the basics like how to calculate the volume of sphere or how to make an investigation valid.
- 5 Over any school holiday, find some time to review and summarise the previous half term's content - mind maps, flow charts etc.
- 6 Review your progress weekly using the lesson outcome sheets you are given at the beginning of each topic and address any concerns. As part of your end of year exam prep do the same with the syllabus checklists. These use the specification and so are the only topics on which you will be tested.
- 7 Practice past paper questions on a regular basis. Examples are found in your text book, on the OCR website and shared by your teachers. Use the mark schemes to understand what examiners are looking for and the common mistakes you make. MARKS analysis also helps with this.
- 8 Hit the library each week and take a look at 'Biological Sciences Review' – this will add context and depth to the topics you are taught. 'New Scientist' will also give you a broader appreciation of scientific ideas (but you will not get quizzed on these in the exam).
- 9 You need to show resilience to succeed: make use of the biology clinic, your class teachers and peers to help you resolve any difficulties you are having with the course content in a timely manner.
- 10 Be organised: Biology has a huge amount of content that you need to know and apply. File your work (filecard your work!) so that topics are easy to find and refer to in lessons and when studying at home.