



**BRUTON SCHOOL**

FOR GIRLS

ON SUNNY HILL

## Biology

**Mrs S Smith**

### Academic Requirements

If you are considering studying Biology beyond GCSE you should be able to answer YES to the following questions:-

1. Will you obtain an A\*, A or B grade for GCSE Biology or in Core and Additional Science (Double Award Science)?
2. Will you obtain at least a B grade for GCSE Chemistry (if studying separate Sciences) and Mathematics?
3. Are your practical skills good and can you look critically at experimental procedures and results?
4. Do you have resilience and perseverance when tackling demanding work?
5. Do you enjoy reading books and articles to gather information? Do you have a real passion about this subject such that you just have to know more?
6. Can you think laterally to apply your knowledge to new situations?
7. Are you prepared to join in with class discussions and to be thoroughly involved?

### Course Specification: OCR Biology (H420)

The A level course consists of six modules called 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 plus an A level Practical Endorsement. The six A level modules are:

**Module 1:** Development of Practical Skills (planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation)

**Module 2:** Foundations in Biology (cells and biological molecules)

**Module 3:** Exchange and Transport (transport systems in animals and plants)

**Module 4:** Biodiversity, Evolution & Disease (biodiversity, classification, evolution, disease & immunity)

**Module 5:** Communications, Homeostasis and Energy (neurones, hormones, homeostasis, excretion, plant and animal responses, photosynthesis and respiration)

**Module 6:** Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems (cellular control, inheritance, manipulating genomes, cloning and biotechnology, populations and sustainability)



*Patrons: Mrs A Maw, Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset and Lady Gass DCVO*

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## **Examinations**

There are three A level examinations:

Paper one (Biological Processes) assesses Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5; duration 2¼ hours.

Paper two (Biological Diversity) assesses Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6; duration 2¼ hours.

Paper three (Unified Biology) assesses Modules 1 to 6 ie all modules; duration 1½ hours.

Questions in all papers vary in type to include multiple choice, structured tasks and extended writing. Some questions will examine knowledge on practical tasks.

## **Practical Endorsement for Biology**

It is reported separately from your A level grade. It is reported as 'Pass' or 'Fail' which is centre assessed and moderated. (The details of this are still to be confirmed by the Examination Regulator). It emphasises the development of practical skills over the two year A level course to a minimum standard of competency. It requires a minimum of twelve practical activities to be carried out covering a common core list of apparatus and technique usage.

## **Why Biology?**

You should be able to answer YES to at least one of these questions:-

1. Do you have a keen interest in the subject and wish to study it at a higher level perhaps with a view to a career involving some aspect of Biological Science?
2. Do you wish to pursue a career in Medicine or Veterinary Science?
3. Are you looking for an A level subject to go with a combination including Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Geography or Psychology?
4. Are you intending to study Arts subjects but would like to study a Science, in order to broaden your personal programme of study?

## **A Student's Perspective**

"When someone asks me the question: "What happens inside a Mitochondrion?" I no longer reply, "Aerobic Respiration". I can give a detailed description of exactly how energy is released and ATP produced in these organelles. It is the very process that keeps us all alive and it is satisfying to finally know the whole story. Building on the material studied at GCSE, A level Biology provides you with a deeper understanding of key topics and it inspires you to want to learn more. So many processes are constantly taking place without us even realising, which is mind-blowing. It is a fascinating subject that I now plan to study further at university."