



Department: Biology

Sixth Form Information Event 2021 FAQs

What course do students study?

AQA A Level Biology.

What are the modules students study?

- **Module 1 – Biological molecules** (biological molecules, enzymes, nucleic acids)
- **Module 2 – Cells** (eukaryotes, prokaryotes & viruses, transport across membranes, cell division, cells in the immune system)
- **Module 3 – Exchange & transport** (exchange surfaces, digestion, transport in animals, transport in plants)
- **Module 4 – Genetic information, variation & relationships** (DNA, genes & chromosomes, protein synthesis, genetic diversity & adaptation, biodiversity, classification)
- **Module 5 – Energy transfers within & between organisms** (photosynthesis, respiration, energy & ecosystems, nutrient cycles)
- **Module 6 – Responses of organisms** (survival & response, nerves & synapses, muscle contraction, homeostasis)
- **Module 7 – Genetics, populations, evolution & ecosystems** (inheritance, evolution, population genetics)
- **Module 8 – The control of gene expression** (gene expression, regulating gene expression, recombinant gene technology, genetic fingerprinting, identification of genetic disorders)

How is the course assessed?

Three papers are sat at the end of Y13 plus students are awarded a pass or fail in the practical endorsement. There are 6 hours of exams at the end of the course, with a minimum of 15% of questions assessing practical skills and a minimum of 10% of questions assessing math skills. For the practical endorsement, a portfolio of evidence is collected throughout the course that covers planning, implementing, analysis & evaluation of practical techniques.

How many students are currently taking the course?

40 in the U6th and 31 in the L6th with two teaching groups in each year – a popular 'A' level course.



A Business & Enterprise School For Boys

Registered Office: Cross Lane Bebington Wirral CH63 3AQ

Company Number: 7734231

VAT Number: 119 0936 13

What results did the students achieve over the last 3 last years?

A2 Grade 2020	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Number	3	9	12	11	5	2	0
Percentage	7	21	28	26	12	5	0

A2 Grade 2019	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Number	1	5	10	9	4	2	1
Percentage	3	16	32	28	13	6	3

A2 Grade 2018	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Number	3	9	4	5	9	4	1
Percentage	9	26	11	14	26	11	3

What do they need to get on the course?

Grade 7 as a minimum at GCSE.

If Double Award then minimum grade 7 in 'Core Science' and 7 for 'Additional Science'

Do they get a textbook?

For each year the students will be given a copy of a textbook that follows the exam board specifications; they also have access to an online textbook and revision guide. There are additional textbooks and revision guides which can be purchased to support learning at a reduced price.

How much homework do they get?

Each teacher sets at least one large task per week. There may be other smaller tasks to complete. Students are also given self-directed study material to be working through in their own time.

How are pupils assessed?

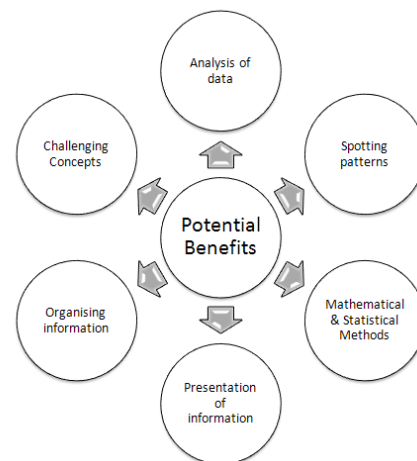
Most modules have two grade marked assessments (GMA's), a topic test and a re-test. Some smaller units only contain one GMA. If pupils do not achieve their aspirational grade in the first assessment, they complete the re-test for that unit. This usually takes place after school.

How many teachers will they have?

Two in each year at the minimum. Depending on timetabling there may be three.

What courses do students take at University?

The skills taught are transferable. Although many students go onto courses that are related to the topic many enter because they like the subject. Previous students have gone on to study: Biology, Chemistry, Zoology, Microbiology, Mathematics, Medical Science, Veterinary Science, Law, History, Nursing, Historical Studies, Natural Sciences, etc. Several students also go on to be successful apprentices.



What extra-curricular opportunities are there?

Several conferences are advertised throughout the course that students can attend individually, and we also introduce guest speakers for specific topics when available, for example the University of Sheffield Genomics day. We have a MedSoc to help prepare students more specifically with university applications for Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry.

Where can I get more information regarding the course content?

The first place to look is the AQA website – search online for AQA A level Biology. Students are following the A level Biology course (7402) from 2015.

Here are some comments from our current 6th form students when asked to give feedback on the Biology department:

'Biology is definitely my favourite subject because the topics are very interesting to learn; the teachers are nice and are always willing to help you when you are stuck. To be honest, there hasn't been a lesson that I haven't enjoyed. The difference between GCSE and A-Level Biology is the responsibility and trust you are given as you have a lot more control over your practicals'

'Biology is an outstanding subject to choose as one of your A level, simply because it's really interesting!!! It's really enjoyable to learn about how our bodies work to keep us alive, how biological molecules make us up, how cells are adapted to carry out many functions and much more! The practicals are also really fun to carry out! Paired with the superb staff and interesting course there's not much biology does wrong and so it is a subject worth choosing!!!!'

'It is very interesting and enjoyable and there are a lot of interesting experiments to do'

'The teachers are really helpful if you need any help or need extra revision materials'

'The staff are very helpful and kind. The course is very interesting and there is a wide range of different topics'

'I really enjoy the depth the course goes into about our own bodies, making every lesson interesting and so lessons are enjoyable. The teachers are very good at covering all aspects of a topic and teach the course in a clear and precise way'

'The support over lockdown and home learning was incredible, even if I didn't engage with it in the best way. The biology department is so organised and meticulously run that every lesson feels well planned and thoroughly engaging. You managed to spark a passion for biology that I carry with me outside of lessons and will do so for the rest of my life. I'm very grateful for all the help you have given me'

'A-Level Biology Lessons at Wirral are thought out and very well structured incorporating fun tasks to increase knowledge of the course. Also, if you are ever having problems with the course, the teachers will more than happily give you the extra help you need'