



Wirral Grammar School for Boys 6th Y11 A-level Options 2022.

FAQ Information Sheet for: *Biology*

Dear students,

Please refer to information and watch the video prepared by the department. These resources will allow you to gain an insight into studying this subject at A level. These are available [here](#):

The WGSB6 Prospectus can also be viewed online [here](#). Careful consideration of these resources will assist you in making the appropriate subject choices for you.

You are advised to consider this material **before** you attend the marketplace activities in January 2023.

| FAQ: | Response: |
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| What course do students study? | AQA A Level Biology. |
| What are the modules students study? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 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) |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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, 1 on Year 12 content, 1 on Year 13 content and a third synoptic paper that includes a 25 mark essay. Students are also 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. |
| What do they need to get on the course? | Grade 7 as a minimum at GCSE. |
| 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 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? | All modules will have a topic test and will be assessed periodically during lessons. |
| 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. |

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| 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. We have a MedSoc to help prepare students more specifically with university applications for Medicine, Veterinary Science of 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. |